

CHANUKAH/PURIM ISSUE



KEHILATH JESHURUN BULLETIN

Volume LXXXV, Number 2

December 9, 2014

17 Kislev 5775

MIRACULOUS REALITY: A CHANUKAH MESSAGE by Rachel Kraus

David ben Gurion once said, "Anyone who doesn't believe in miracles isn't a realist." This statement reflected a necessary mindset at a time when the fledgling State of Israel was surrounded by enemies and its day-to-day existence was a result of the unity, the dedication and the determination of the early pioneers - a belief that out of the ashes a Jewish State can and will rise.

We are now in the month of Kislev - a

month marked by miracles. We acknowledge these miracles with the recitation of *Al Hanisim* on Chanukah, as well as with the brachot on the lighting of the menorah, thanking God for the miracles "*bayamim haheem, bazman hazeh*," of the past and the continued miracles today.

There is an interesting conversation in Masechet Shabbat 23a. The Gemara states that the *madlik*, the one who engages in

the physical activity of lighting the menorah, is required to make the *bircat hamitzvah* (the blessing recited upon performing a mitzvah) of "*li'hadlik ner shel Chanukah*" as well as the *bircat hoda'a* (a blessing of thanks) of "*she-asa nisim la'avotenu bayamim haheem bazman hazeh*." The Gemara continues that the *ro'eh*, the observer, a passerby, has an obligation to recite *bircat hoda'a* on merely seeing a lit menorah. In other words, if a person is walking down the street and sees a lit menorah in a window or doorway, he or she should recite a bracha.

It is a curious requirement. It is one thing to be the one performing the mitzvah, but why would an observer have an obligation to respond with a bracha? Even though we don't rule that the *ro'eh* makes a bracha, it seems odd that the Gemara would even suggest such a response; we don't have an obligation to recite a bracha when we observe someone else learning Torah or when we observe someone else making Kiddush. What is so unique about Chanukah that it would even warrant this kind of atypical discussion, that one who merely sees the burning candles of the menorah should recite a *bircat hoda'a*?

During my post high school "gap year" in Israel, I went on a heritage trip to Poland. As the grandchild of four Holocaust survivors, this trip was very personal to me. It was about my own family. I remember standing at the entrance to Auschwitz, where all of my great grandparents and their families were killed and where my grandparents survived. The survivor who accompanied us on the trip asked that any grandchildren of survivors please join her at the entrance, and together, *B'shem Hamalchut*, we

SAMUEL S. SILVERSTEIN SHABBATON

JANUARY 30-31, 2015

OUR FEATURED SCHOLARS:

RABBI YSOSCHER KATZ

YESHIVAT CHOVEVEI TORAH TALMUD DEPARTMENT CHAIR

& DR. SHARON FLATTO

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, BROOKLYN COLLEGE JUDAIC STUDIES DEPARTMENT

(See detailed biographies on page ten)

Friday Evening Dinner

immediately following 5:05 p.m. Shabbat Services

after which Dr. Flatto will discuss

HASIDIM, MITNAGGEDIM AND THE POLITICS OF MYSTICISM

Rabbi Ysoscher Katz will deliver the sermon at 9:00 a.m. Shabbat Services:

UNDERSTANDING *SHIRAT HA'YAM*: SINGING IS BELIEVING

Dr. Flatto will teach a class at 3:45 p.m.

TO MOURN OR REJOICE:

WHAT TO DO ON SHABBAT AFTERNOON (BESIDES NAP)

Following 4:45 p.m. Mincha, Rabbi Katz will speak at Seudah Shlishit:

RABBEINU TAM AS *POSEK* AND RADICAL INNOVATOR

FRIDAY EVENING SHABBAT DINNER

Members Non-Members

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

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KJ Service Directory

Aryeh Leifert, Israel Tour Guide (U.S number, rings in Israel)	305-454-4050
Foremost Caterers	201-664-2465
Judaica Classics (Doina Bryskin)	212-722-4271
Rabbi Yoseph Lasdun, Tefillin and Mezuzah Checking	212-927-1655
McCabe's Wine & Liquors	212-737-0790
Park East Kosher Butcher	212-737-9800
Plaza Jewish Community Chapel	212-769-4400
Seasons Kosher Supermarket	212-222-6332
Tauber Fish Market	718-338-5380

For Shaatnez checking (the biblical prohibition against mixed fabrics typically found in the collars of expensive men's suits), suits may be left at Kent's Fashion House, 1596 Third Avenue (between 89th & 90th Streets, phone: 212-876-0088), and they will be inspected by the Shaatnez checker.

Questions regarding matters of Jewish family law and women's health should be addressed to Dena Block, KJ's Yoetzet Halakhah, who can be contacted at 201-921-8992 or at blockdina@gmail.com

KJ's BAT MITZVAH PROGRAMMING

A UNIQUE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOR MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS

The KJ Bat Mitzvah Program was developed in order to provide a meaningful opportunity for mothers and daughters to explore, in creative and interactive ways, the challenges and opportunities of reaching Bat Mitzvah.

Taught by Rachel Kraus, the Bat Mitzvah Program follows the curriculum developed by MaTaNa, the world-renowned Jerusalem academy for women's Torah scholarship founded by Rabbanit Malka Bina, and focuses on Jewish female role models from the matriarchs to Nehama Leibowitz.

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

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

BAT MITZVAH CLASSES

Led by Rachel Kraus

9:30 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

January 11, 18, and 25

February 1, 8, and 15

March 1, 8, 15 and 22

WINTER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

December 6 - Youth Shabbaton (grades 4-7)

December 7 - Parent /Child Minyan

December 13 - Tot Shabbat Daytime

December 13- Musical Havdalah
and Movie Night

December 14 - KJBL

December 17 & 18 - Chanukah Extravaganza
at Chocolate Works

December 20 - Chanukah Dodgeball
in the Dark

December 21 - KJBL

January 9 - Tot Shabbat Family Dinner

January 10- Musical Havdalah
and Movie Night

January 11 - KJBL

January 17 - Tot Shabbat Daytime

January 18 - KJBL

January 25 - KJBL

February 1 - KJBL and **Super Bowl Party**

February 7-Musical Havdalah
and Movie Night

February 20 - Tot Shabbat Family Dinner

February 8 - KJBL

February 27 - Bnei Akiva Shabbaton

February 28 - Tot Shabbat Daytime

February 22 - KJBL

February 28- Musical Havdalah
and Movie Night

March 1 - KJBL

March 4 - Purim Bash

March 5 - Purim Carnival

March 7 - Youth Shabbaton (grades 1-3)

March 8 - KJBL

March 14 - Tot Shabbat Daytime

March 22 - KJBL

March 29 - KJBL

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE KJ FOOD PANTRY

- ♦ Staffing the food cart Mondays from 4:45-6:00 p.m.
 - ♦ Packing food bags on Mondays
- For more information contact
Stacy Scheinberg at Stacyron@aol.com

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 26:

Ellen Ackerstaff
Cecelia and Dennis Bernstein
Dan Golan
Andrea and Adam Gorlyn
Irwin Hochberg
Ariel and Matthew Levitan
Alana and Elan Luger
Melissa and Gabriel Marans
Jennifer Novick
Shari and Samuel Raymond
Smadar and David Seinfeld
Rebecca and Zachary Sohn
Aurora and Sander Srulowitz
David Stern
Hayley and Meir Turkel
Mira and Claudio Valencia
Rachel and Michael Winston
Ruth and Leonard Wisse
Lisa Young

A Fun Night of Bubble Soccer with KJYD!



MIRACULOUS REALITY: A CHANUKAH MESSAGE

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recited "*Baruch Ata Hashem Elokeinu Melekh Ha'olam, sheasa li nes bamakom hazeh*" -- a blessing of gratitude for performing a miracle for me in this very spot. A miracle happened to me here, my grandparents survived, and my very existence is a miracle.

What the Gemara was alluding to was the need to recognize the miracle of Jewish survival. The threat of the Greeks was not against the Jews, it was a war against the flame of Judaism. Seeing the flame of a chanukiah demands our attention, to pause in our steps, and to say, "*sheasa li nes bamakom hazeh*," a miracle is happening here, "*she-asa nisim la'avotenu bayamim hahem bazman hazeh*." Jewish survival is a miracle. It was a miracle then and it is a

miracle now.

The war isn't over, and our Judaism is threatened every day through assimilation, through anti-semitism, through acts of terrorism. The threats are stronger than ever. When we see the light of the menorah, when we are merely the *ro'eh*, we pour out our gratitude to God for allowing our Yiddishkeit to burn from our windows for the world to see: *she-asa nissim laavotenu bayamim hahem bazman hazeh*." We thank God for the miracles performed on our behalf then, and now.

Because of the leadership we had *bayamim hahem*, those who believed, those who marched back into the Beit Hamikdash and frantically searched for one flask of oil, for one spark to reignite

the flame of Judaism, because of those leaders, Judaism survives. And *bazman hazeh*, today, despite the repeated malicious attacks and the feelings of isolation that come from living in a world where so many cannot tell the difference between right and wrong or the difference between good and evil, our identity remains strong. Our sense of unity will see us through this time of darkness, as we pause and recognize that a single candle

burning in a window is a testament to the miracle of our existence.



KRISTALLNACHT: A CONVERSATION WITH EYEWITNESSES

Kristallnacht. The night of broken glass -- a reference to the untold number of windows broken that night. This was a pogrom against Jews throughout Nazi Germany and Austria on November 9-10, 1938, carried out by Nazi Party officials, storm troopers, the SS, Hitler Youth, and civilians. 30,000 Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps. 1,000 synagogues were burned. 7,000 businesses were damaged or destroyed. Jewish homes, schools, and hospitals were singled out for attack. The passivity with which most German civilians responded to the violence signaled to the Nazi regime that the public was prepared for more extreme measures, which culminated in the Holocaust.

On November 10, KJ and Ramaz welcomed two remarkable women, Jill Pauly, originally from Cologne, Germany, and Susan

Taube from Vacha, Germany, both of whom lived through Kristallnacht as children. They shared their stories in a talk moderated



Members of the audience, absorbed by the recollections

by Suzy Snyder, a curator in the Art and Artifacts branch of the United States Holocaust Museum.

Mrs. Pauly described how her home was ransacked and many of her family's possessions were destroyed. Her family was fortunate enough to have a connection who was able to secure visas for them in May 1939, and they spent the war years in Nairobi, Kenya. They came to the United States in 1947.

Mrs. Taube's family had lived in the town of Vacha for 400

years. On Kristallnacht, her father's place of business was badly damaged. He was imprisoned in Buchenwald for four weeks and



Jill Pauly and Susan Taube speak with Suzy Snyder.

then released on the condition that he would leave Germany immediately. He went to Belgium and then to the United States in 1940, but he was unable to get his family out of Germany. Susan and her family were deported to the Riga ghetto and were imprisoned in three concentration camps throughout the war. Mrs. Taube was liberated by Soviet troops in March 1945 and came to the United States in April 1947.

The audience sat in rapt attention as the two women recalled the fear and horror of that night. As they described - still with a sense of disbelief after all these years - the atrocities that took place that night, it was possible to hear the voices of the children they were. It was a powerful recollection that those who were privileged to hear it will not soon forget.

This compelling program was chaired by Julie Kopel, Caroline Massel and Yaira Singer. They worked in tandem with the KJ Holocaust Education Task Force in support of the KJ/Ramaz Community Library, created for the enrichment of community-wide Holocaust education. KJ will be devoting a portion of its new library to books, documents and artifacts from the Holocaust to serve as a resource for our community. Anyone having items in their possession appropriate for the library is invited to contact Matthew Binstock at mattybins@yahoo.com.

CHANUKAH BEGINS TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 16

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 burn 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.

For Information
about the weekly status
of the Manhattan Eruv
Call the **ERUV HOTLINE**
212-874-6100, ext. 3
(Recorded Message)

THREE COMMUNITY MIKVAHS

The Jacques & Hannah Schwalbe Mikvah

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

The Rennert Mikvah at 5th Avenue Synagogue

5 East 62nd Street
(just off Fifth Avenue)
Telephone: 212-753-6058

The West Side Mikvah

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

SHABBAT AT KJ

KESHER YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINYAN

Gottesman Center - 9:15 AM

December 20, January 24

February 21, March 21

HASHKAMA MINYAN

Gottesman Center - 7:15 AM

December 6 & 20, January 3, 17 & 31

February 14 & 21, March 7 & 21

YACHAD SHABBATON March 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.

Why is This Light Different From the Lights of Past Years?

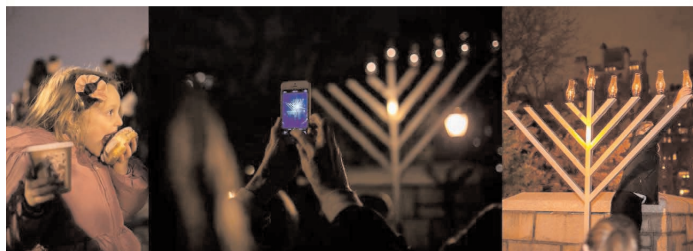
In the past, the KJ Benevolent Fund mailed Chanukah candles to the KJ family as a way of inviting people to contribute to the charitable work the Synagogue does. Since it became apparent that people were using the many better alternatives to the kind of candles that were sent in the past, we have stopped sending the candles.

Yet, the needs of people in our community and beyond are great. The current economic climate has only served to increase the number of calls we receive requesting help with housing costs, medical care, and other special needs which we endeavor to fill in a manner that preserves the dignity of those who are so hard-pressed.

Please ensure a bright and light-filled Chanukah to the many who need the help of the KJ Benevolent Fund by remitting a tax-deductible check or by using your preferred credit card and earning miles and "points" in the process at www.ckj.org/pay. Just indicate that your gift is for the Benevolent Fund. You will earn "points" not only in this world, but in the World to Come!

Chanukah in the Park

Sunday, December 21 at 5:30 p.m.



Join friends and neighbors at
the **East 86 Street promenade**
of **Carl Schurz Park**

as we spread the light and warmth of the
festival with treats, live music, holiday spirit,
and fun for the whole family!

Presented by KJ Beginners and
Chabad of the Upper East Side

www.kjbeginners.org
Follow us on twitter.com/kjbeginners
Like us on facebook.com/kjbeginners



KJ Beginners and Kol HaNeshamah invite you to
THE MARY AND HARRY SIEGEL SERIES OF
Friday Night Beginners Services

Join us for an uplifting, explanatory service featuring
Cantor Ari Klein and Mo Kiss and the Neshamah A Cappella group
with words of Torah by Dr. Adena Berkowitz and Rabbi Daniel Kraus.
Turn Friday night into a truly inspiring Shabbat experience.

Gala Kiddush following Services

November 21 at 5:30PM
January 9 at 5:30PM
February 27 at 6:30PM

FREE
RSVP to Beginners@ckj.org
Special program for children

Ramaz Middle School
114 East 85th St.

iLearn@CKJ

Not another app, but a weekly appointment with your
heritage! Be a part of the discussion
as you delve into Jewish fundamentals
as well as the important issues facing contemporary Judaism.

with Rabbi Daniel and Rachel Kraus
Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., at 114 East 85th Street



Enhance Your Religious and Ethical Engagement.
Connect More Deeply With Your Community.

Lively monthly conversation with
Rabbi Roy Feldman
at 114 East 85th Street
on the following Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

December 3; January 7,
February 4; March 3 (Tuesday); April 1; May 6

For more information please e-mail roy@ckj.org

PURIM SCHEDULE



FAST OF ESTHER, Wednesday, March 4

Fast begins at 5:13 a.m. and ends at 6:24 p.m.
Shacharit at 6:50 a.m. & Mincha at 5:25 p.m.
Please remember to bring Tzedaka for machazit *ha-shekel* and other holiday obligations.



MINCHA, MAARIV & MAIN MEGILLAH READING Wednesday evening, March 4

Mincha is at 5:25 p.m. at the Ramaz Upper School's Cayne Gymnasium (60 East 78th Street) and the Middle School's Falk Auditorium. Maariv, followed by the reading of Megillat Esther, will begin in both locations at 6:15 p.m. The reading in the Cayne Gymnasium will be followed by a Purim Pizza and Ice Cream Party in the Upper School's Kaufman Auditorium, featuring beloved Lower School music teacher Morah Chaya. Thanks to an anonymous benefactor, there is no charge.



CHILDREN

Wednesday evening, March 4

At 6:00 p.m., children in 3-year-old Nursery through 1st grade should assemble in Rooms 301 and 302 at The Ramaz Upper School while children in 2nd through 6th grade should assemble in the library. All children will receive groggers, and will be escorted by Youth Department staff from their respective assembly locations into the Cayne Gymnasium for Megillat Esther. Throughout the service, children are expected to be participating in their special youth groups or sitting quietly next to an adult. Parents are asked to join the regular service in the Cayne Gymnasium until its conclusion, at which time they may pick up their children from the specially designated child seating areas in the front of the Gymnasium.



ADULTS ONLY READING

6:15 p.m. - Second reading (quiet, no children) of Megillat

Esther in the Falk Auditorium of the Gottesman Center, 114 East 85th Street.



SEPHARDIC MINYAN

Mincha at 5:25 p.m. followed by Maariv and Megillah reading with the nusach of *Aram Soba - Eidot haMizrach*, at 6:15 p.m. in the Upper School Bet Knesset, followed by the community Pizza and Ice Cream Party in the Kaufman Auditorium.



PARENTS AND TODDLERS READING

6:15 p.m. - Megillah reading for parents and "can't sit still" toddlers and infants in Room 603-604 of the Ramaz Upper School followed by a community Pizza and Ice Cream Party in the Kaufman Auditorium.



BEGINNERS MEGILLAH READING

7:30 p.m. - Beginners Megillah Reading and Purim Party in the Gottesman Center at 114 East 85th Street with Rabbi Daniel & Rachel Kraus and Shilo Kramer.



MORNING SERVICES AND MEGILLAH

Thursday, March 5

Morning Services at 7:00 a.m. and again at 9:30 a.m. in the Heyman Auditorium, each followed by Megillah reading and breakfast. The Sephardic morning minyan will take place in the Gottesman Center Room 501 at 6:45 a.m., where the Megillah will also be read. *Matanot l'Evyonim* will be collected at all services.



PURIM YOUTH CARNIVAL

In the Gottesman Center from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., 114 East 85th Street. Contact KJ Youth Director Aryana Ritholtz at aryana@ckj.org to purchase tickets in advance.

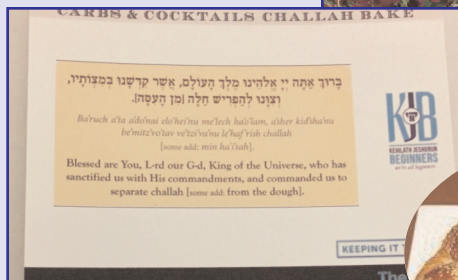
Baking Challah for the Shabbos Project

Originally developed by the Chief Rabbi of South Africa, Dr. Warren Goldstein, the Shabbos Project is now a creative and dynamic international movement to unite all Jews through keeping one Shabbat together. This year, it was celebrated on the weekend of Parashat Noach, October 24-25. Hundreds of communities worldwide participated in programs centered around Shabbat.

In support of this incredible social movement, KJ Beginners partnered with Fabologie.com (Adi Heyman's Jewish lifestyle website) and sponsored a women-only evening of Challah baking, "Carbs and Cocktails." New York based-chef Dini Klein demonstrated many challah-braiding techniques to one hundred women who gathered in the Gottesman Center to share the spirit.



Photo Credit: Shiran Achrak



The finished product!

PURIM: THE JEWISH WAY TO REJOICE - March 4-5, 2015

WHAT IS PURIM?

Purim, the holiday on the 14th of Adar, is one of the happiest days of the Jewish calendar. The Talmud (Ta'anit 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 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 Ta'anit*, there were hundreds of days of the year that were considered minor festivals of thanksgiving. Only two, Purim and Chanukah, were applied to all Jewish communities at all times because 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, February 28, 2015) 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

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.

We go straight from the fast to the Megillah reading - only eating after we have fulfilled that mitzvah.

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

(Continued on next page)

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dispensed on Purim day. We have a special collection in synagogue for this purpose.

Seudah: Festive meal with rejoicing. Invite family and friends to your home or join our catered community celebration.

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 heighten 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 !



ANNUAL BNEI AKIVA SHABBATON

February 27, 2015

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
following 4:50 p.m. services
at KJ**

Dinner is \$15 per person

For more information,
contact aryana@ckj.org

UPCOMING KESHER EVENTS

Chanukah Concert
December 7

Saturday Morning Tot Shabbat
December 13, January 17, February 28, March 14

Tot Shabbat Friday Night Family Dinners
January 9, February 20

Guys Night Out
January 14

Progressive Dinner
February 28

Children’s Purim Event
March 1

Tot Shabbat Across America
March 13

Advanced Talmud Shiur
in Tractate Avodah Zarah

in memory of Dr. William Major
with

Rabbi Dr. Jeremy Wieder

*Yeshiva University’s Joseph and Gwendolyn
Straus Professor of Talmud in the Mazer Yeshiva
Program, a Rosh Yeshiva at the Rabbi Isaac
Elchanan Theological Seminary, and an adjunct
professor of Bible at Yeshiva College*

Following 8:30 a.m. Sunday morning services
and breakfast in the Ramaz Middle School
114 East 85th Street

Childcare available for children over the age of 3.
Contact Aryana@ckj.org for details



Bringing Good Things to Living



Children from the JCC of Canarsie gathered in a KJ Sukkah on October 12 for a pizza and crafts party sponsored by UJA@KJ. They made their own etrog boxes, played Sukkot bingo and enjoyed an all-around fantastic and meaningful experience.



Photo credit: Nessa Libin

More great programming to come from UJA@KJ:

Help bring Chanukah cheer on December 14 to the seniors at Jewish Home Lifecare, 120 West 106th Street between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues, from 10:30 a.m. - noon. Advanced registration is required.

Mitzvah Monday on January 12. UJA@KJ serves a monthly meal to the isolated, poor, mentally ill, and homeless seniors at Project ORE. Bring happiness to yourself and others by sharing a smile and words of encouragement.

Pack it Up for Purim on Sunday, March 1. Prepare packages of Mishloach Manot to benefit the KJ Food Pantry.

To RSVP or for more information, please contact "UJA at KJ" chairs
Rebecca Feit at rebeccafeit@yahoo.com, Abby Kaufthal at akaufthal@gmail.com,
Nicole Meyer at nicole.meyer@ralphlauren.com,

or our UJA-Federation liaison Rebecca Zimlover (zimloverr@ujafedny.org or 212-836-1356)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Coming from the KJ Men's Club
for the whole community:

January 25 at 6:30 p.m.:

Film Screening of
Yearning to Belong,
a documentary about

the Abayudaya Jews in Uganda
and their struggle to be recognized by
the international Jewish community.

with filmmaker

Debra Gonsher Vinik



February 8 at 7:00 p.m.:

Supper Lecture with journalist

Edwin Black

Financing Terrorism



at the Gottesman Center
114 East 85th Street



Treat your kids to a fun-filled morning!

Shira and Friends'

will be performing at KJ

for Keshet's Annual Chanukah Concert

December 7th at 10:30 a.m.

Heyman Auditorium, 125 East 85th Street

General Seating: \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Preferred Seating: 4 tickets for \$50 - in advance only. Premier Seating: 6 tickets for \$100 - in advance only. Pizza lunch will be served! add an additional \$2 per child for pizza. RSVP to KeshetChanukah@yahoo.com

ROSE AND CHARLES LANGER LUNCH & LEARN PROGRAM

The Rose & Dr. Charles Langer Lunch and Learn Program for seniors, hosted by Donna Silverman, will continue through June 2015. The free program for seniors is made possible by an endowment created by the Buchwald, Edelsburg, and Stern Families.

December 10 - Rabbi Elie Weinstock

December 17 - Israel Max

December 24, 31 - Winter Break

2015

January 7 - Rabbi Roy Feldman

January 14 - Rabbi Elie Weinstock

January 21 - Rabbi Yigal Sklarin

January 28 - Surie Rudoff

February 4 - Robyn Barsky

February 11 - Israel Max

February 18 - Rabbi Daniel Kraus

February 25 - Shira Felberbaum

March 4 - Rabbi Elie Weinstock

March 11 - Robert Sugarman

March 18 - Dr. Gilbert Kahn

March 25 - Rabbi Yigal Sklarin

The program takes place at noon

in the Social Hall at Congregation Or Zarua, 127 East 82nd Street

preceded at 11:30

by Dus Haimische Shtiebel: "The Yiddish Schmoozers"

16TH ANNUAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT

Special Gala Seudah Shlishit

Honoring Members of:

Chevra Kadisha

Bikur Cholim

Hatzolah

Congregational Chesed Volunteers

February 21st

Following 5:10 p.m. 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 Esther@ckj.org

*KJ Sisterhood:
Making an Impact
While Building Community
with Programming for All*

Three great events took place this fall and the money raised will help benefit families and individuals in our community and around the world, including Dorot, Hatzolah, the Israeli Defense Forces, Magen David Adom, Project Ezra, Sharsheret, UJA, and of course, The Ramaz Scholarship Fund, among many others. Those funds will also help provide mourners their first meal; contribute to KJ programs and activities such as Bar/Bat Mitzvah gifts; send a welcome package to new members; and fund unsponsored Shabbat kiddushim.

We kicked off our programming with a guided tour of the Jewish Museum's Helena Rubinstein: Beauty is Power exhibit preceeded by brunch graciously hosted at the homes of Suzy Schwartz and Stacey Kanbar. Thanks to our chairs: Brenda Bernstein, Lani Kollander and Michelle Spielfogel.

With the support of Jennifer Roth, we were, once again, able to offer an insider's view of the Sotheby's Important Judaica and Israeli Art Auctions. Thanks to our chairs: Barbara Braffman and Carla Tanz.

More than 36 vendors offered products from hats, children's clothing, kippot, Chanukah gifts, fine & costume Jewelry, table Linens, handbags, and baked goods at the Sisterhood Pre-Chanukah Boutique. Thanks to Chairs: Mindy Miller, Nancy Newhouse, and Monica Shatz.



*A representation of our Sisterhood community.
Photo credit: Brenda Bernstein*

Coming up in 2015 are more great events:

January 20: A Holistic Approach To Healthier Living - a free community workshop led by Alexandra Zohn.

February Cooking event (details to be announced).

March 3: Book Club featuring *Such Good Girls* by R.D. Rosen, hosted by Rita Distenfeld.

April: Turning deli flowers into florist-worthy bouquets - a flower arranging workshop.

May: Annual KJ Sisterhood Spring Luncheon and Boutique.

Get involved! Come to an event to be with friends or meet new people. You are welcome to co-chair an event or offer your home as a venue. For more information on how to get involved, contact one of us:

Stephanie Katz, President (stephanieskatz@gmail.com)

Julie Kopel, Vice President (juliekopel@gmail.com)

**SAMUEL S. SILVERSTEIN
SHABBATON FEATURED
SCHOLARS
JANUARY 30, 31**

Dr. Sharon Flatto is an Associate Professor of Judaic Studies at Brooklyn College and Deputy Director of its Graduate Program. She received her Ph.D. in Jewish history from Yale University and her B.A. from Barnard College. Specializing in early modern Jewish history and Kabbalah, Professor Flatto, a Ramaz alumnus, has taught at a broad range of educational institutions, including Yale University, Queens College and Brown University, and is the author of *The Kabbalistic Culture of Eighteenth-Century Prague: Ezekiel Landau (the 'Noda Biyehudah') and his Contemporaries* (Littman Press, 2010) as well as various scholarly articles.



Rabbi Ysoscher Katz is Chair of the Talmud Department at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah; Director of the Lindenbaum Center for the Study of Halakha; Rabbi of Prospect Heights Shul; and director of Judaic Studies at the Luria Academy in Park Slope, New York. He studied at Brisk and at Yeshivat Beis Yosef, Navaradok, and received ordination from Rabbi Roth, Dayan of UTA Satmar. A graduate of the HaSha'ar Program for Jewish Educators, Rabbi Katz taught at the Ma'ayanot High School for Girls and SAR High School, taught a very popular Daf Yomi class in Boro Park for over a decade, and currently teaches a popular Gemara shiur on the Upper East Side that you can join by contacting coordinator Larry Present at presentlaw@gmail.com.



MORNING CLASSES AT KJ

Mondays at 9:00 a.m.:

In-Depth Talmud with Gilah Kletenik

Tuesdays at 8:15 a.m.:

Parsha Foundations with Rabbi Elie Weinstock

Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.:

Parashat haShavua with Rabbi Haskel Lookstein

Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.:

Prophetic Women with Dr. Shera Aranoff Tuchman

For more information, call (212)774-5600.

RABBI KENNETH SCHIOWITZ**“Parenting Like a Teacher
and Teaching like a Parent:
Educational Lessons from the Parashah”**

Shabbat morning, January 10



Rabbi Kenny Schiowitz, a YU graduate and musmach who was a member of the Wexner Smicha Honors Program, is Rosh Beit Midrash and beloved faculty member at the Ramaz Upper School where he also serves as Talmud Department Chair. He published *Sefer Shiurei HaRav al Masechet Chalah UMitzvot Hateluyot Baaretz* that presents the lectures of Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik on the topics relating to the sanctity of the Land of Israel, and recently published the first three volumes of *Madrikh Le-Moreh*, a guide for Talmud teachers. Rabbi Schiowitz, winner of the Grinspoon-Steinhardt Award for Excellence in Jewish Education in 2009, is the founding rabbi of Congregation Shaare Tefillah of Teaneck.

DR. AYELET LIBSON**“Concealment and Confidence:
The Theology of the Book of Esther”**

Shabbat morning, February 21



Dr. Ayelet Libson, noted writer, lecturer and a graduate of MaTaNa's Advanced Talmud Institute, holds a BA from Hebrew University in Jewish Thought. She received her MA and PhD in Talmud from New York University's department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies. She has taught at Bar Ilan University, New York University and Drisha Institute. Dr. Libson currently teaches at MaTaNa and is a researcher at the Israel Democracy Institute.

Experience the

POWER**PEOPLE****IMPACT****AIPAC Policy Conference 2015 March 1-3**

More than 11,000 pro-Israel Americans gather in Washington, D.C. for the annual AIPAC Policy Conference to help shape U.S. policy and further strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship.

UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

The AIPAC Policy Conference is the largest gathering of America's pro-Israel community. Through demonstrations of groundbreaking Israeli innovations, keynote speeches by American and Israeli leaders, inspiring moments on stage, and intimate educational sessions, Policy Conference delegates experience the full scale of pro-Israel activism in three powerful days.

The conference culminates with the opportunity for delegates to lobby their members of Congress in support of legislation that enhances the relationship between the United States and Israel.

WHO ATTENDS THE CONFERENCE?

- More than 14,000 pro-Israel Americans
- More than two-thirds of Congress
- More than 2,300 students from 491 campuses
- 260 student government presidents from all 50 states
- More than 275 synagogue delegations
- AIPAC membership from across the country



Join **Rabbi Haskel Lookstein**, **Rabbi Elie Weinstock**, and fellow members of **Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun** in our nation's capital for three of the most important days affecting Israel's future.

For more information about Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun's delegation, or to register for the AIPAC Policy Conference, please contact Rabbi Weinstock or Nalani Daniel, AIPAC's Manhattan Associate Area Director at 917-210-6304 or ndaniel@aipac.org.

“Three of the Most Important Days Affecting Israel's Future”To learn more, visit www.aipac.org/pc**NEW WIDOW CONNECTION PROGRAM AT KJ**

Losing a spouse is often one of life's most difficult adjustments. It can be a time of profound sadness giving rise to powerful feelings of isolation. Those who have experienced such loss know how hard it can be, and understand the many feelings and challenges that arise.

KJ is proud to host **W Connection**, a program aimed at providing newly widowed women with support and guidance from other widows within the KJ community. The program matches widows/grieving partners with a trained and supervised widowed volunteer.

With the support of a caring, knowledgeable individual, a widow can better cope with this normal but painful period in life.

If you or someone you know can benefit from this kind of support, please join the W Connection on December 18, and then on the second Thursday of every month from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at the Ramaz Middle School Gottesman Center, 114 East 85th Street (between Park and Lexington Avenues). For more information, please contact Judy Tanz at: 212-535-7571.

**KJ SYNAGOGUE MEMBERSHIP:
BE A PART OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE**

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

KJ BEGINNERS PRESENTS

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 AT 5:30 PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23 AT 6:00 PM

March 13, 2015 at 6:45 pm

Shabbat Across America

Featuring Rabbi Haskel Lookstein

JEWISH LEARNING INSTITUTE AT KJ



“The Art of Parenting”

with Rabbi Elie Weinstock

Parents want to raise their children to be confident and happy, moral and caring, proud ambassadors of their Jewish identity. This course will help parents embrace their dreams of raising successful children who are able to make wise choices and are well equipped to change the world for the better.

\$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 January 19

WINTER LEARNING AT KJ

Crash Course in Basic Judaism

with Rabbi Elie Weinstock
January 5 and 12 at 7:30 pm

Crash Course in Jewish History

with Rabbi Daniel Kraus
January 6, 13, 20 and 27
at 7:30 pm

Beginners Hebrew

with Sara Rosen
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
beginning January 7

Continuing Hebrew

with Sara Rosen
Wednesdays at 7:30 pm
beginning January 7

Holiday Workshops

with Rabbi Daniel & Rachel Kraus
Chanukah

Tuesday, December 9, 7:30 pm

Purim

Tuesday, March 3, 7:30 pm

Passover

Tuesday, March 24, 7:30 pm

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

HISTORY AT HOME:

APPRECIATING CONTEMPORARY JEWISH LIFE: HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY AND TECHNOLOGY *featuring Rabbi Jacob J. Schacter*

“Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: American Orthodoxy in the Eighteenth Century”

January 10 - Sponsored by Stacy and Ron Scheinberg

“Rabbi Soloveitchik Confronts the World Around Him”

February 7 - Sponsored by Adele and Ron Tauber

Presentations begin at 8:30 p.m.

at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun, 125 East 85th Street
followed by a post-lecture dessert reception

THURSDAY NIGHT LEARNING

WITH
RABBI YOSSEI WEISER

The Book of Judges

Starts January 8

Shemitah, Pruzbul, and You

Starts February 12

Pesach: What's New This Year?

Starts March 12

All classes start at 7:00 pm

Studies in the Weekly Portion
at 8:00 pm

BNEI MITZVAH



KIRA BERMAN

Mazal Tov to Sara and David Berman upon the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Kira, on December 6th at Congregation Shearith Israel. Kira will chant from Kohelet and deliver a D'var Torah on the historical relationship between Sukkot and Chanukah. Kira is in the seventh grade at the Ramaz Middle School. Mazal Tov to proud KJ grandparents Judy and Michael Steinhart.



SAM LOW

Mazal Tov to Lisa and Nathan Low, upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Sam, on December 27 at the Marais Road Shul in Capetown, South Africa. He will layn Parashat Vayigash and its Haftarah, and deliver a D'var Torah entitled "The Halakhic Safari: A Jewish Journey Toward Adulthood." Sam is in the seventh grade at the Ramaz Middle School.



MAX MANNIS

Mazal Tov to Dr. Rebecca Mannis upon the Bar Mitzvah of her son, Max, at Congregation Orach Chaim on January 10. He will read Parashat Shemot from a Sefer Torah dedicated in memory of his grandfather, Samuel Mannis, z'l, chant the Haftarah, lead Mussaf and deliver a D'var Torah on "Moshe: The Unexpected Leader." Max is a seventh grade student at the Abraham Joshua Heschel School.



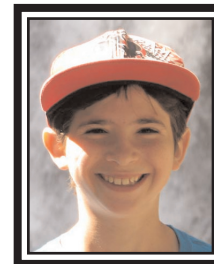
CAITLIN ALEXANDRA LEVINE

Mazal Tov to Drs. Jody and Elie Levine, upon the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Caitlin Alexandra, on January 10. She will deliver a Dvar Torah entitled "A Letter for the Ages" based on her study of Igeret haRambam. Caitlin is a sixth grade student at the Ramaz Middle School.



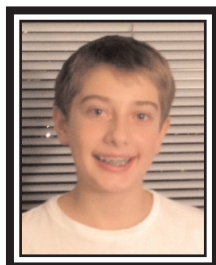
SAMANTHA SINENSKY

Mazal Tov to Dr. Sara Babich upon the Bat Mitzvah of her daughter, Samantha, on February 7th at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun. Samantha will read Parashat Yitro at a Women's Tefillah and deliver a D'var Torah on some very important life lessons that we learn from the parashah. Samantha is a sixth grade student at the Ramaz Middle School.



ZEVI LONNER

Mazal tov to Leora Tanenbaum and Jonathan Lonner upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Zev Lonner, on Shabbat Parashat Terumah, February 21, at Kehilat Yavneh. Zev will layn the Parashah and the Haftarah, and he will deliver a D'var Torah about Parashat Terumah. Zev is in the seventh grade at the Ramaz Middle School.



BENJAMIN SILVERMAN

Mazal Tov to Adrian and KJ Executive Director Leonard Silverman upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Benjamin, on February 28, at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun, where he will read Parashat Tetzaveh on Shabbat Zachor, chant its Haftarah, and deliver a D'var Torah. Benjamin is in the seventh grade at the Ramaz Middle School. Mazal Tov, as well, to the proud KJ grandparents, Donna and Arthur Silverman.

Soul Cycle A Monthly Spiritual Workout Led by Rachel Kraus

*January 21; February 18; March 25;
April 22; May 24; June 17
at 8:00 p.m.*

**Women of the community
are invited to participate in a
monthly learning series, providing
an opportunity to learn, share,
engage and inspire each
Rosh Chodesh. A variety of topics
will be addressed
in different homes each month.**



MILES KLASS

Mazal Tov to Stacey and Richard Klass upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Miles, on March 7, Shabbat Parashat Ki Tisa at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun. Miles is in the seventh grade at the Ramaz Middle School.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

BIRTHS

Mazal Tov to:

Anita and Jordan Abowitz upon the birth of their first great-grandchild, Yakira Rachel, born to their grandchildren Ganit and Yehoshua Reis.

Diane and Bob Abrams upon the birth of a grandson, Jacob Nahman (Kobi), born to their children Becky Abrams Greenwald and Daniel Greenwald.

Mara and Elliot Attie upon the birth of their third child and daughter, Julia Sarah.

KJ Yoetzet Halakhah Dena and Avi Block upon the birth of their second child and first daughter, Ayala Shalva Sara.

Eleanor and Fred Braid upon the birth of a grandson, Noam Shmuel, born to their children Yael and Roy Braid.

Tova Bulow (wife of the late Norman Bulow) upon the birth of her great-grandson Shaya Norman Romm, son of Ricki ('02) and Yuval Romm. Mazal Tov also to proud grandparents Shoshana Bulow ('81) & Seth Goldstein, and Alexa & Rabbi Alan Berkowitz.

Deborah and Eric Edell, upon the birth of their third child and son, Rogan Grey (Gaddy Mordechai). Mazal Tov to proud KJ grandmother, Mira Levenson.

Dr. Leonard Feingold, upon the birth of a granddaughter, Emma Lily (Mira), born to his children Mychal Feingold and Dr. Elliot Grodstein.

Rosie ('68) and Dr. Mark Friedman upon the birth of their 18th grandchild, Chava Chana, born to their children, Rivkah and Yosef ('04) Friedman of Jerusalem.

Gealia and Matt Friend upon the birth of twins, their second and third children, Yael Liba and Ruben Solomon (Reuven Shlomo). Mazal Tov as well to KJ grandparents Dr. Adina and Michael Singer.

Drs. Ruth and Adam Jacobi, upon the birth

of their second child and daughter, Natalie Anne (Nechama Chana).

Sue and Dr. Norman Javitt upon the birth of their first great-grandson, Yakir Lev, born to their grandchildren Zivia Brunschwig and Shlomo Javitt (Ramaz '02) in Jerusalem. Shlomo is the son of Reba Kizner and Daniel Javitt, also of Jerusalem.

Henriette and Joseph Jemal upon the birth of their second son, Abraham (Avraham).

Tzivia and KJ Beginners Chazan Shilo Kramer on the birth of their fifth son. Mazal Tov, as well, to proud KJ grandparents Ziva and Rabbi Avraham Kramer.

Drs. Jody and Elie Levine upon the birth of their fifth child and second son, Jack Quentin (Yaakov Zvi).

Abby and Noah Levenson upon the birth of their first child, Avner Jesse (Gershon Yisha).

Margot and Joshua Marans upon the birth of their first child and son, Daniel Schacter Marans (Daniel David). Mazal Tov as well to proud KJ grandparents Sheira and Steven Schacter.

KJ Comptroller Hattie Murphy upon the birth of a great-niece, Maya Alaina (Ita Rubi) born to her niece, Sonya and Thomas Grimes.

KJ Comptroller Hattie Murphy upon the birth of a great-niece, Isabel Leila, born to her niece, Kimberly and Brandon Wathke.

Pamela and David Ness upon the birth of their first child, Howard Julian (Tzvi Yair). Mazal Tov as well to proud KJ grandparents, Alissa and Howie Shams.

Jeanne and Adam Peldman upon the birth of their third child and first daughter, Kayla Brooke (Kayla Chaya).

Pamela and George Rohr upon becoming first-time grandparents with the birth of a baby boy, Jonah Jack (Yaakov Yonah) to their children Rebecca Rohr Ritter and Harry Ritter. Mazal Tov as well to proud KJ great-grandmother Helen Nash.

Shera Aranoff and Alan Tuchman, upon the birth of a grandson, Adin Emanuel, born to their children, Dr. Liora Schultz and Ari Tuchman.

Hayley Chester and Michael Turkel upon the birth of their first child and son, Finn (Pinchas Asa).

Leora and Emmanuel Werthenschlag upon the birth of their second child and first daughter, Margot Liv (Moriyah).

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

BNEI MITZVAH

Mazal Tov to:

Rosie ('68) and Dr. Mark Friedman upon the Bat Mitzvah of their eldest grandchild, Eleora Penina Fine, at Temple Hillel of Woodmere, where her paternal great-grandfather was the Rabbi, a"h.

Donna and Arthur Silverman upon the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Sarah Silverman, in Los Angeles. She is the child of Nomi and Daniel Silverman.

Abigail and Shai Tambor upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Moshe, on November 22. Mazal Tov to KJ grandparents Belda and Marcel Lindenbaum.

Judy Tanz upon the Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter, Kate Rich, daughter of Sarah and Ron Rich of Stamford, CT.

ENGAGEMENTS

Mazal Tov to:

Aliza and Aaron Menche upon the engagement of their daughter, Ayelet, to Dr. Aaron Krom of Israel, the son of Professors Mary and Michael Krom originally of the U.K. and now of Israel.

Dr. Barbara Sandberg and Steven Springer upon the engagement of their daughter, Lauren, to Daniel Rosen, son of Dr. Sharon Maza and Eric Rosen, of Teaneck. Lauren, a

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

In Memoriam

MORRIS WEISS

The most elderly member of Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun, Morris Weiss, devoted father of our devoted member, Ruth Musher, passed away peacefully on Sunday morning, November 23, at the age of 106. He died as he lived: a dignified, warm, loving, friendly mensch.

Mr. Weiss was born on the Lower East Side into a family which came from Kishinev after the pogrom of 1905. He established a successful business in men's neckwear, manufacturing ties which were sold under store labels like Saks Fifth Avenue, Best & Company, and de Pinna.

He was a wonderful father to his two children and an adoring and an adored father-in-law to Dr. David Musher. He was a real gentleman who got along with everyone, even those with whom it was difficult to get along.

Ruth and David were extraordinary children to this lovely man, but they would be the first to tell you that he deserved every bit of loving attention they gave him.

He outlived hospice twice and was actually discharged. It seemed almost as if he would live forever. His memory, however, will certainly live on and on.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

graduate of Harvard Law School, is an associate at Weil, Gotshal & Manges and Daniel is a medical student at Harvard Medical School.

Paula and Leonard Solinsky upon the engagement of their daughter, Shari Jenna, to Joshua Ian Ziegelman.

Dr. Lawrence Steinberg upon the engagement of his grandson, Jonah Mermelstein ('08), to Estie Neff, daughter of Nancy and Andy Neff of Teaneck.

May their weddings take place in happiness and blessing.

MARRIAGES

Mazal Tov to:

Joyce Hirsch and Richard Hirsch upon the marriage of their son, Adam, to Jessica Sylvester.

Drs. Deborah Weisfuse and Robert Lipner upon the marriage of their son, Louis, to Annika Goldman, in Cincinnati.

Ronit and Dr. Larry Schwab upon the marriage of their son, Ryan, to Sharon Cohen of Kings Point, New York.

Nechi Shudofsky upon the marriage of her granddaughter, Sarah Chesner to Erez Farchi, in Israel.

Rebecca Newman and Zachary Sohn upon their marriage. Rebecca is the daughter of Jenny and Mike Newman, and Susie and Dr. Daniel Goldberg, all of Teaneck. Zachary is the son of Barbara and Alan Sohn, also of Teaneck.

Grace Weil upon the marriage of her grandson, Netanel Weil, son of Sara and Rabbi Aryeh Weil, to Bat-Chen Ohev Tzion of Jerusalem. Netanel was recently ordained at the Kotel as a Rabbi of the IDF.

May the new couples be blessed to build homes faithful to the traditions of the Jewish people.

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Yariv ben Ari upon joining Akerman LLP as a Partner in the Real Estate Practice Group.

Robert Garson upon winning Voice Artist of the Year for Outstanding Local Radio Commercial at the Voice Artists Awards.

Dr. Scot Glasberg upon being elected President of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, the world's largest organization of board-certified plastic surgeons and foremost authority on cosmetic and reconstructive plastic surgery.

Ariela Friedman Fine ('97) and Yael Friedman Farkas ('01) upon launching a linens business called "Threads," located at 416 Central Avenue in Lawrence. Both are former Limudei Kodesh teachers at Ramaz, and Ariela Fine continues to teach in the Shulamith School in Cedarhurst.

Dr. Mark Meirowitz, upon presenting "Challenges in Turkish Domestic and Foreign Policies" at the NYU Center for Dialogues on November 12 and "Turkey, Jews and Israel" at the Westchester Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center on December 2.

Meg A. Rosenblatt, MD, Professor of Anesthesiology and Orthopaedic Surgery at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, upon being appointed Chair of Anesthesiology at Mount Sinai St. Luke's and Mount Sinai Roosevelt.

Dr. Andrea Thau upon being honored by the College of Optometrists in Vision Development with the 2014 Distinguished Service Award in recognition of a lifetime of achievement of contributions to the advancement of the optometric profession. This includes leadership roles within the profession, organized optometry, continuing education as a writer and/or lecturer, teaching, legislation to advance the profession, research, and involvement in inter-professional

organizations on behalf of the profession of optometry.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Lauren Springer upon her graduation with honors from Harvard Law School. Lauren will be working at Weil, Gotshal & Manges in the Transactional Intellectual Property corporate department.

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to:

Alan Applebaum, upon the passing of his mother, Leila Applebaum.

Kenneth Aschendorf, upon the passing of his mother, Gladys Aschendorf.

Gila Cohen, upon the passing of her step-father, Joel Baum.

Randi Eisenstein, upon the passing of her mother, Lila Silfen.

Matthew Friend upon the passing of his paternal grandmother, Estelle Friend.

Susan Kelstein, upon the passing of her mother, Betty Primis.

Dr. Gary Ostrow, upon the passing of his mother, Ida Ostrow.

Carolyn Rubin, upon the passing of her father, Alvin Silver.

Pamela Stern, upon the passing of her mother, Brenda Goldwasser.

Andrew Tananbaum, upon the passing of his mother, Doris Tananbaum.

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

In Memoriam

DR. WALTER WEITZNER

What a blessing it was for our community when Dr. Walter Weitzner and his wife Roz moved into our neighborhood and became involved in the life of Kehilath Jeshurun. Walter was a first class Jew and mensch. He reconnected with many friends in the KJ family and he loved our shul.

A respected *baal habayit* in Flatbush, he had a regular weekly shiur with Rav Dovid Cohen which reflected his exceptional love of Torah and his ability to thrive in the realm of Talmudic scholarship. At the same time, he was an outstanding ophthalmologist whose patients benefited greatly not only from his professional expertise but also from his wisdom.

Walter was a renaissance man in that he knew a lot about everything. His children reveled in not only his love for them and happiness with them and their children, but also with the privilege they had to ask him about almost anything and know that he would have the answers.

He and Roz had a great marriage and produced a marvelous family devoted to Torah, mitzvot and intellect.

His passing is a great loss for his family and for our community as well.

Be a Dorot Volunteer!

KJ partners with Dorot to provide Shabbat meals to the homebound elderly.

A weekly visit from a compassionate volunteer can make all the difference in helping an Upper East or West Side senior feel cared about and connected.

*Please contact Sasha Stim-Fogel
at 212-769-2850*

*or ssstim-fogel@dorotusa.org to learn more
about this wonderful volunteer opportunity*

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

Contact the Synagogue office at
212-774-5600

KEHILATH JESHURUN BULLETIN

Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun
125 East 85th Street
New York, NY 10028-0928

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KEHILATH JESHURUN BULLETIN

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125 East 85th Street, New York, NY 10028
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Elimelech Weinstock *Associate Rabbi*
Rabbi Dr. Jeremy Wieder
..... *Scholar-in-Residence*
Rabbi Daniel Kraus & Rachel Kraus
..... *Directors of Community Education*
Roy Y. Feldman *Rabbinic Assistant*
Mayer Davis *Cantor*
Leonard Silverman *Executive Director*

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Esther Zarnel *Program Associate*

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"

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

		<i>Lighting of Candles</i>	<i>Friday Evening Services</i>	<i>Saturday Afternoon Services</i>	<i>Sabbath Ends</i>
December					
5-6	Vayishlach	4:10 PM	4:25 PM	4:05 PM	5:08 PM
12-13	Vayeshev	4:10 PM	4:25 PM	4:05 PM	5:09 PM
19-20	Miketz	4:13 PM	4:25 PM	4:05 PM	5:12 PM
26-27	Vayigash	4:16 PM	4:30 PM	4:10 PM	5:15 PM
January					
2-3	Vayehi	4:22 PM	4:35 PM	4:15 PM	5:20 PM
9-10	Shemot	4:28 PM	4:40 PM	4:20 PM	5:27 PM
16-17	Vaera	4:36 PM	4:50 PM	4:30 PM	5:34 PM
23-24	Bo	4:44 PM	4:55 PM	4:35 PM	5:42 PM
30-31	Beshalach	4:53 PM	5:05 PM	4:45 PM	5:50 PM
February					
6-7	Yitro	5:01 PM	5:15 PM	4:50 PM	5:57 PM
13-14	Mishpatim-Shekalim	5:10 PM	5:25 PM	5:00 PM	6:06 PM
20-21	Terumah	5:18 PM	5:30 PM	5:10 PM	6:14 PM
27-28	Tetzaveh/Zachor	5:26 PM	5:40 PM	5:15 PM	6:21 PM
March					
6-7	Ki Tisa	5:34 PM	5:45 PM	5:25 PM	6:30 PM
13-14	Vayakhel/Pekudei-Parah	6:42 PM	6:45 PM	6:30 PM	7:37 PM
20-21	Vayikra-Hachodesh	6:50 PM	6:45 PM	6:40 PM	7:44 PM
27-28	Tzav-Hagadol	6:57 PM	6:45 PM	6:25 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. 7- 254:25 PM	Jan. 18-224:50 PM	Feb. 22- 265:35 PM
Dec. 28-314:30 PM	Jan. 25-295:00 PM	March 1-3, 55:45 PM
Jan. 4-84:35 PM	Feb. 1-55:10 PM	March 8-June 116:45 PM
Jan.11-154:45 PM	Feb. 8-125:20 PM	
	Feb. 15-195:25 PM	

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed.-Fri., December 17-19
Chanukah Service at 7:10 am
Monday-Tuesday, December 22-23
Chanukah/Rosh Chodesh Tevet
Morning Service at 7:00 am
Wednesday, December 24
Chanukah Service at 7:10 am
Thursday, December 25
Morning Service at 8:30 am

Thursday, January 1
Fast of the 10th of Tevet
Fast Begins at 6:08 am
Morning Service at 8:30 am
Afternoon Service at 4:15 pm
Fast Ends at 5:16 pm
Wednesday, January 21
Rosh Chodesh Shevat
Morning Service at 7:00 am
Wednesday, February 4
Tu B'Shevat

Monday, February 16
Morning Service at 8:30 am
Thurs.-Fri., February 19-20
Rosh Chodesh Adar
Morning Services at 7:00 am
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