

A NEW QUARTERLY JOURNAL
PROVIDING A WINDOW
INTO WHAT IS HAPPENING AT
CONGREGATION
AHAVATH TORAH



חורף תשפ"א / Winter 2021

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WISHING
EVERYONE A SAFE
AND WARM
WINTER

CAT CHALANOT BULLETIN
PREVIOUS AND CURRENT
VERSIONS ON-LINE:

www.ahavathtorah.org/bulletin

THE WINTER EDITION

MESSAGE FROM RABBI POUPKO, SENIOR RABBI

No one can say why Hashem allowed this pandemic to occur, but that doesn't mean we can't find lessons from this awful experience. While nearly every aspect of our lives has been affected, it's the social and communal features that have been most impacted. Jewish experience permeates both the inner and outer life of the individual, but the outer, communal life plays an enormous role.

And this outer, communal life has been utterly changed. We're almost at the one-year mark since we closed the shul at the outset of the pandemic. And in that time, we have navigated this new reality with safety as our primary value. We have been forced to innovate and find new ways to connect to overcome physical-distancing. Among the numerous efforts that have been going on in our community are: the safely conducted indoor davening and programming, as well as outdoor services; davening and shiurim over zoom; new learning initiatives utilizing social media; dynamic, creative youth programming; new Chessed committees to reach out to those most in need and provide financial guidance and support; checking in on the elderly and sending care packages; welcoming and meeting the many new families who have moved into the neighborhood;

sending meals to health care workers and first responders; among many other activities.

In my many conversations with members of the community, I've heard people reflect on the gifts they have discovered having to daven on their own with family and fill the Shabbos day without the usual shul attendance. Prior to the pandemic, many of us could simply "show up" at shul and settle into our routine: drop the kids at groups, settle into our seat in a sanctuary, follow along with the service, catch up with our friends, have some kiddush, and repeat next week. Now, Shabbos and Tefilah is what we make of it. Whatever sense of routinized complacency we felt before the pandemic was instantly shattered when our shuls closed.

As we hope to regain some normalcy in shul during the months ahead, with Hashem's help and the widening vaccination effort, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to rethink how we go about shul life and the Shabbos morning experience. We should reflect on what shul was like before corona and what Shabbos was like during corona and think creatively about post-corona life.

A brief reflection on the state of Bnei Yisrael in Egypt can help us frame this discussion. We know from the

continued on page 3

MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL RATZKER, PRESIDENT



We recently celebrated Chanukah, a holiday of celebration, as well as a time in which we strengthen our faith in Hashem.

The Menorah and the Al Hanisim prayer remind us of the Hasmonean triumph in their battle to ensure Jewish continuity.

Over the course of the chag, we recite Al Hanisim a minimum of 26 times and reference Hashem's past, present and future miracles. The prayer depicts God's involvement in the Israelite victory over the Greeks and concludes with the Hasmoneans purifying the Temple and invoking generations of Jews to light the Menorah to advertise God's miracles and to show our gratitude to Him.

Recently, I heard Rabbi Lookstein mention that although the prayer refers to the numerous miracles that occurred, the two most important words of Al Hanisim are **V'achar Kain** or **And after that** suggesting that a leader must be in position to handle a crisis as it evolves and equal-

ly important, to move forward after it is resolved.

With the excitement surrounding the vaccine and please God, a glimpse of returning to normalcy, the Ahavath Torah leadership is facing the next challenge or **V'achar Kain**. What guidelines do we need to implement during the transition period? How do we prepare for our members' return to campus? How do we cater to the 50 new families who moved in? What if any major changes do we need to consider? How do we accommodate those who are uncomfortable returning to live services?

With thanks to Hashem, we are fortunate now to face these challenges and looking forward to a new norm at Ahavath Torah. As always, I welcome our memberships' input as we try to answer the question of **V'achar Kain?**

Thank you,

Michael

Michaelratzker99@gmail.com

1-201-310-2182

LISTEN TO CAT SHIURIM ONLINE AND ON THE GO!

Did you miss a weekday class at Ahavath Torah? Don't sweat it! Now you can find all of our weekday classes online. Listen on the go and when it works for you.

Just visit our SoundCloud homepage at soundcloud.com/ahavathtorah

Particular playlists include...

[Rabbi Poupko: Weekly Derasha](#)

[Rabbi Goldberg: Malachim II](#)

[Shabbat Illuminated Series](#)

[Shoshana Poupko: Reflecting with the Rebbetzin](#)

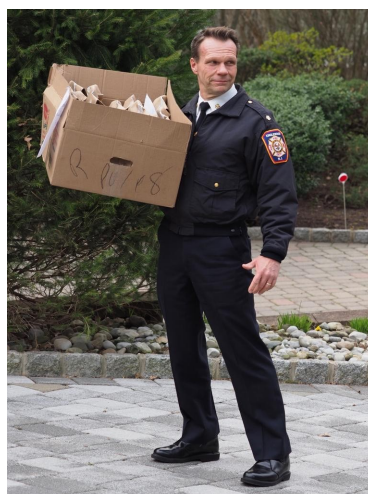
New additions to the playlist:

[Rabbi Poupko: Vayigash](#)

[Rabbi Poupko: Miketz](#)

[Rabbi Poupko: Vayechi](#)

[Rabbi Poupko: Shemot](#)



Ahavath Torah Delivers Food to Community First Responders





Navi Yechezkel that Bnei Yisrael suffered in Egypt from their bondage, not only physically, but spiritually as well. The Navi reports that Bnei Yisrael worshipped idolatry in Egypt. And the Rabbis have a tradition that only one-fifth Bnei Yisrael were saved from Egypt. After everything Bnei Yisrael experienced – the suffering and the miracles – how could it be that so many forfeited redemption? How did they lose the opportunity to faithfully cast their lot with Hashem and Moshe and follow them out of Egypt?

Rashi intimates that there were those who suffered from something worse than idolatry and lack of belief. When Rashi explains that four fifths of Bnei Yisrael died during the plague of darkness, he describes them as those who didn't *want* to leave. They didn't look for anything better out of life. They displayed a destructive sense of complacency, a satisfaction with the status quo. Indeed, when Hashem first sends Moshe and Aharon to Pharaoh it says that Hashem commanded them to call on **both** Pharaoh **and** Bnei Yisrael that they should be sent from Egypt. Even Bnei Yisrael needed to be commanded, goaded to leave Egypt. The redemption would be something initiated and fulfilled by Hashem but only with those who had the courage to break out of their normal routines.

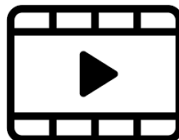
The pandemic brought communal complacency to a screeching halt. In a matter of moments, we needed to find new ways of conducting communal life and families would need to take on new responsibilities in their Jewish lives. And its these experiences that will guide us as we begin to rebuild communal life. We cannot let a good crisis go to waste. We must take the lessons of this past year (and what it teaches us about life before that) with us into the coming years. The shul leadership has been hard at work planning for what we hope to be the final stretch of the pandemic and gradual return to a time when we can all gather together as a community in our beautiful shul.

VIDEO RECORDINGS OF RABBI POUPKO'S RECENT CLASSES

The Rabbi Poupko Parsha Project
Click [here](#) to watch (Parshat Vayigash)

Asara B'Tevet, Vaccines, and Hope
Click [here](#) to watch

From Egypt to Washington DC, a Derasha for Shemos
Click [here](#) to watch



TORAH DELIVERY WITH THE POUPKOS

WE BRING THE TORAH TO YOU!

Wine Tasting and Discussion for Couples with the Rabbi and Rebbetzin

TOPIC: LET'S TALK INSPIRATION

WHAT IS IT? HOW DO WE FIND IT?

3 Options:

- In-person outdoors (heated) - see the picture
- In-person indoors socially-distanced in the Parker Family Ballroom
- Over Zoom



Gather a group of your friends – 3 to 5 couples – and set a date for a personal shiur and discussion with Rabbi and Shoshana Poupko. We'll begin with wine-tasting of select Israeli wines chosen by a wine expert.

Contact rpoupko@ahavathtorah.org for details and registration

PARSHA Discussion

WITH

SHOSHANA POUPKO



WHERE TO LISTEN



Thoughts and reflections on the parsha presented by Shoshana Poupko to a Women's Parsha Discussion Group on WhatsApp for Congregation Ahavath Torah in Englewood, NJ, drawing on the teachings of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks z"l

THE BOOKS IN HIS LIBRARY



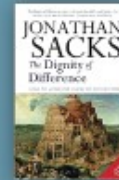
The Literary Legacy of
Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks z"l



WEDNESDAY
January
20
8:00 PM

Rabbi Elie Weinstock

Jewish Center of Atlantic Beach, NY
The Dignity of Difference



WEDNESDAY
February
17
8:00 PM

Rabbi Ariel Rackovsky

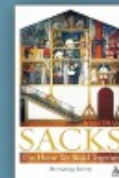
Shaare Tefilla, Dallas, TX
Morality: Restoring Common Good in Divided Times



WEDNESDAY
March
17
8:00 PM

Rabbi Chaim Poupko

Congregation Ahavath Torah, Englewood, NJ
The Home We Build Together



WEDNESDAY
April
28
8:30 PM

Rabbi Yosef Weinstock

Young Israel of Hollywood - Ft. Lauderdale
The Great Partnership: Science, Religion, and
the Search for Meaning



WEDNESDAY
May
26
8:30 PM

Rabbi Adam Starr

Ohr HaTorah, Atlanta, GA
A Letter in the Scroll



Lectures will be introduced by Rabbi Adam Frieberg

Access all of the sessions at: YIH.ORG/ZOOM/YIH



CLIMBING BACK DOWN

“Who was the first person to summit Mount Everest?” My rebbe posed this question to me and a group of my fellow yeshiva students, studying in Israel for the year. As it happened, when he posed the question I was in the middle of a book about Everest. I proudly called out “Sir Edmond Hillary.” He responded “that is the correct, wrong answer. You see, someone summited Everest before Hillary. But Hillary is much more famous. Do you know why? Because Hillary was the first person to make it back down.”

Today, it feels like we as a community have summited Everest. This year has presented us with the enormous challenge of adjusting to a pandemic that turned the world upside down. There was no roadmap, no blueprint to follow. One could not help but feel daunted, at points, even a sense of despair. But with prudent leadership and a good dose of creativity our community figured out a way to put one foot in front of the other and climb. Somehow, amid the craziness, the shul has managed to maintain steady, safe minyanim. Zoom shiurim are reaching even broader audiences. There are new chessed efforts strengthening the bonds

of our community. And the shul now houses the Englewood Torah Center, bringing more people into the building for daily learning than ever before. Add to that the broader context of effective vaccines being administered to thousands of people every day, and we can safely say we have reached the top of this mountain.

...But now we have to get down.

Reaching the top of Everest is a challenge. But getting back down is really the trouble. The care and focus you naturally apply on the way up is harder to muster. Your mind is already on the warm food at basecamp. You are already rehearsing the story you will tell friends and family. But the fact is, the trip home is not yet complete. And it too is fraught with danger.

Such is our situation today. So let's be proud of what our shul under Rabbi Poupko's leadership together with our dedicated lay leaders have accomplished this past year. It wasn't easy. Let's rejoice in a hard fought summit. Let's even take a minute to enjoy the view. But as we steadily climb back down this mountain, let's not lose focus. It's obvious that many long awaited and beautiful moments await us upon reaching the bottom of this mountain. It's obvious we will get there. But we're not quite there yet.

TO SPONSOR A
DAY/WEEK/MONTH

OF LEARNING PLEASE
CONTACT THE

SHUL OFFICE:

201-568-1315

OR E-MAIL

OFFICE@AHAVATHTORAH.ORG

OR COMPLETE THE ON-LINE
FORM

[CLICK HERE](#)

A poster for a comedy event. At the top, it says "Pre-Purim" in yellow script. Below that, "Second-Hand COMEDY" in large white and yellow block letters. In the center is a vintage silver microphone. Overlaid on the microphone is the text "SAVE THE DATE" in large, slanted yellow letters. At the bottom, it says "Sun. 02/21 8:00 PM" in yellow block letters, underlined. The background is dark with red and yellow light effects.

No Longer Englewood's Best Kept Secret

By Jacob Almo, BSC Executive Committee Member

In Sefer Shemot (34:3), Rashi comments that the reason the second set of *luchot* (tablets) endured whereas the first set did not, is that the second set were given without the pomp and ceremony that accompanied the first set of commandments. Instead, the everlasting nature of the Torah we have today is the result of being given *without* fanfare and dazzle, but rather with a quiet dignity and unassuming glory.

The Englewood Torah Center began over three years ago as a "someday-wouldn't-it-be-great" idea of Rabbi Mordy Kuessous and has since blossomed into more than *seven* regularly scheduled gemara and halacha classes held on the Ahavath Torah premises with over 70 men and young adults in attendance on a weekly basis. But you may have never even heard about its existence...there's good reason for that.

Approximately one and half years ago, Rabbi Kuessous invited (in some cases, cajoled...myself included!) a group of 12-15 "*ba'alei batim*" from our community to a breakfast to learn about a new gemara class he wanted to start at 6AM Monday through Friday. To my surprise and delight, over 15 people showed up and committed to begin learning with the affable, knowledgeable, and skilled educator, Rabbi David Delouya (also known fondly as Rabbi Kuessous' brother-in-law from Monsey). The "*Kinyan HaMasechta*" program, dubbed as such for its focus on "acquiring" and mastering the gemara through regular chavruta and individual post-instruction review, was the first organized class that would eventually morph into the newly formed Englewood Torah Center.

With the help of key lay leaders and supporters as well as the cooperation, support, and guidance from its Rabbinic Advisors--Rabbi Chaim Poupko, Rabbi Zev Reichman, Rabbi Menachem Genack, and Rabbi Daniel Goldberg--the Englewood Torah Center became official this past rosh chodesh Elul. Thanks to the special endorsement by Rabbi Poupko and President Michael Ratzker, the Torah Center found a home in the libraries of Ahavath Torah.

Rabbi Kuessous' decision to choose a more organic, word of mouth, and one-on-one method of recruitment quickly yielded a solid base of dedicated gentlemen making the time in their busy schedules to perform our most impactful mitzvah--*Talmud Torah*. Through this quiet,



behind the scenes approach, the Torah Center has grown quickly, even in its infancy, drawing members from Ahavath Torah and several from East Hill Synagogue, as well as from other local shuls.

The complementary driving force behind this rapid growth has been the leadership and enthusiasm of Rabbi Delouya. Rabbi Delouya left his position as a highly regarded educator for over 11 years at a yeshiva high school in Monsey to head up the Torah Center and teach gemara at The Moriah School. His tremendous passion for Torah learning, his depth of knowledge, and his masterful ability to teach gemara in a way that just about anyone can comprehend, has attracted all those who've had the privilege of learning with him.

In addition to Rabbi Delouya's gemara shiurim, the Torah Center is pleased to have Rabbi Jake Shwekey who teaches a halacha class at 6:45AM and a gemara shiur to college students at 8AM. His energy and excitement for learning and teaching is truly infectious.

Last, but not least, Rabbi Eliyahu Koval joins the Torah Center several nights a week to teach gemara to three different groups with his warm, passionate, and engaging demeanor.

The Englewood Torah Center has plans to continue its growth and reach by incorporating learning opportunities and programming for women and youth as well. More on that soon!

At this point, the cat is out of the bag. But this is just the beginning. Now that the base has been established in the most unassuming of ways, G-d willing, paving the way for years and years of increased Torah learning in our community, you are invited to inquire and see for yourself what you are now knowingly missing out on.

For more information, please contact Rabbi Kuessous at: rkuessous@ahavathtorah.org.

JOIN ON ZOOM



MEN'S IN-DEPTH HALACHA SHIUR WITH RABBI KUESSOUS WEDNESDAYS AT 8:00 PM

Join on Zoom:
www.ahavathtorah.org/rkuessous



Rabbi Mordy Kuessous serves as the Associate Rabbi for the Benaroya Sephardic Center at Congregation Ahavath Torah in Englewood, NJ.

JOIN ON ZOOM



THE RABBI POUPKO PARSHA PROJECT WEDNESDAYS AT 9 AM

Join on Zoom:
www.ahavathtorah.org/zoom
Dial in 646-558-8656, meeting ID: 201-568-1315,
passcode 2405781



Please visit Rabbi's Desk at
www.ahavathtorah.org/rabbidesk for the recordings of the recent classes with Rabbi Poupko

JOIN ON ZOOM



ADVANCED TALMUD SHIUR WITH RABBI ROSENSWEIG MONDAYS AT 7:30 PM

MASEKHET BAVA METZIA

For Zoom info and source sheets go to:
www.ahavathtorah.org/RabbiRosenzweig



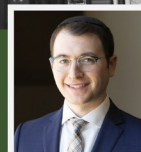
Rabbi Itamar Rosensweig, our Resident Scholar, is a maggid shiur at Yeshiva University and a dayan at the Beth Din of America. He received his semikha, Yoreh Yoreh and Yadin Yadin, from RIETS, where he was a fellow of the Wexner Kollel Elyon and Editor-in-Chief of the Beit Yitzchak Journal of Talmudic and Halachic Studies. He received his BA in physics and philosophy from Yeshiva University, an MA in medieval Jewish history from YU's Bernard Revel Graduate School and an MA in philosophy from Columbia University.

JOIN ON ZOOM



EXPLORING HAFTAROT WITH RABBI GOLDBERG TUESDAYS AT 7:45 PM

Join on Zoom:
www.ahavathtorah.org/haftarot
Dial in 646-558-8656, meeting ID 496 800 069,
passcode 251692



Join Rabbi Goldberg for an in depth analysis of the weekly Haftarah. Examine their profound messages and how they complement or complicate the central themes of the weekly Parsha.

BAT MITZVAH PLUS FOCUSES ON JEWISH LEARNING AND LIFE

**Adapted from Bracha Schwartz's article in the Jewish Link*

The Bat Mitzvah Plus program at Congregation Ahavath Torah has begun its sixth season at Ahavath Torah. Freidi Hyman, program director, said the curriculum she has created over the years for the seven sessions blends learning, discussion and hands-on activities. While some of the logistics have had to be adjusted due to the pandemic, Torah is timeless, she noted, and the substance of the program is unchanged.

“We created the program to bring meaning and significance to this very important time in the girls’ lives as they become bat mitzvah,” she said. Rebbetzin Hyman, is earning a master’s degree in Jewish education and special education at Touro College. She has been a part of the physical education faculty at the Frisch School in Paramus for 15 years and teaches algebra at the Idea School in Tenafly.

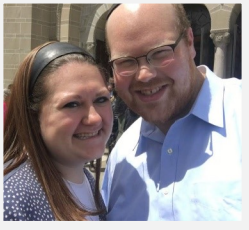
The girls meet for half of the sessions on Shabbat afternoons and the other half on Sundays to learn, work on projects, and do chesed activities. “I give the girls

shiurim that I try to make exciting,” said Rebbetzin Hyman. “I tell them stories to bring the concepts to life. I include sources from the Torah so they know where the ideas come from and why we do them. For example, why do we take challah? Where does that come from? What’s the significance? When we learned about challah in past years, the girls made it—one for themselves, and one that they brought to an elderly person in the community. We hope it will be possible to do that again this year.” Throughout the year, the girls pair up for chavruta learning with topics including the laws of lashon hara, and read the book “Positive Word Power; the Language of Friendship and Happiness for Teens.”

Rebbetzin Hyman makes a memory book at the end of each year. The pages are filled with photos from all the activities and brief text to remind the girls of what they did and why. The subheads in last year’s book read, “So Much Fun” and “Good Times.” She anticipates making a 2020-2021 book that will reflect the same enthusiasm.



Bat Mitzvah Plus Challah Bake



Rabbi Willie and Estie Balk

Youth Directors

Temperatures are dropping, snow is falling, but the excitement still continues with Ahavath Torah Youth! The Chagim feel like forever ago but they were packed with

different activities and fun for the whole family. Our Rosh Hashana To-Go Care Packages, Erev Sukkot decoration making, virtual Sukkah hop, Chol HaMoed Drive By, and Simchat Torah Candy Bag making and walk-by were a huge success!

After the holidays were over, we had our amazing Post-Parshat Noach Petting Zoo with Pony Rides! Over 100 of our youngest members and their families came out to have a blast with chickens, goats, llamas, sheep, rabbits, ponies, and even a donkey! We are so grateful that this fun event was able to take place, even with Covid restrictions. By staggering our family start times we were able to ensure that this yearly event could happen.

Two and half months ago, we launched an initiative to bring the parsha “home” to our families called Parsha

in a Bag. The first week, Parshat Noach, we purchased mini Jenga sets, rainbow sour sticks, and animal crackers, and wrote up a sheet of explanations as to how the items we included connected to the parsha and open-ended discussion questions. We had originally purchased 27 mini Jenga sets, but had 44 interested families so we quickly scrambled to make sure we had enough for everyone! The signups have increased steadily week by week and now we are making and delivering over 140 parsha bags every week! We are so grateful to our team of delivery drivers who bring Parsha in a Bag directly to your door. An additional thank you to our families who have sponsored a week of Parsha in a Bag.

If you are interested in receiving Parsha in a Bag delivered weekly to your door, are interested in sponsoring a week of Parsha in a Bag, or able to help deliver our bags weekly, [click here!](https://forms.gle/W4DxVx5hN4zzsgYc6) (<https://forms.gle/W4DxVx5hN4zzsgYc6>). Help make the Parsha come to life!

We are so excited for our upcoming slate of programs coming up in the upcoming weeks and months. Be on the lookout for our Spring 2021 Youth Program Calendar coming soon!

Isaac Perry Beth Midrash Series

Parent Child Learning ON ZOOM

MOTZEI SHABBAT

As a result of updated state mandates announced this week, we have decided to shift Parent Child Learning online.

- Sourcesheets will be put online for you to learn with your family
- Join us on Zoom as we go over the sources together
- Every participating child will get a raffle ticket number.
- Winners will get their prizes delivered after the raffle.
- We will also be raffling off 3 pies of pizza to be delivered after the raffle!

Join Parent Child Learning at 6:30 pm via Zoom at ahavathtorah.org/zoom. Dial-in (646) 558 8656, Meeting ID: 201 568 1315 Passcode: 2405781

Click [here](#) to download the parsha study sheet

This year has seen a number of college students and young adults living at home. Watching this population seek out learning opportunities has been amazing and encouraging. The Rabbis have formed warm relationships with this group, and wish to maintain their connection. To that end, we would like to gather their contact information to keep them informed of CAT activities.

[Click here](#) to enter your child's information. This information will be requested on future annual membership registration. We hope to continue to connect with your amazing kids.



Rebbetzin Dr. Shoshana Poupko

The Ahavath Torah community deeply appreciates that “with age comes wisdom, and with length of days understanding.” (Job 12:12) And it is through this lens that we embarked on a new chapter of sup-

porting our senior citizens. When Covid 19 confined so many of our elder members to their homes, our community immediately formed a committee to address the situation. This resulted in packages delivered every Friday from Pesach through Shavuot, which included homemade challah and baked goods as well as reading material for the *parshat hashavuah*.

For Pesach and Shavuot, packages included home baked cakes and kugels, puzzles, reading material, and handmade paper flowers in a vase to adorn each table. One couple sent a hand-written note sharing that they stored the vase and flowers in their Passover box of items with plans to bring it out yearly, as a reminder of the kindness and care shown to them during Covid.

After Shavuot our initiative became known as “Chalah L’Chodesh among Chaverim” – “Challah among friends for the shabbat on which we bless Rosh Chodesh.” Each month a package of fresh baked Challah and baked goods is delivered to over 80 senior citizens by a dedicated committee of drivers. When dropping packages, the drivers call the home, wave from the car, and check in briefly over the phone - making sure that not only have the goods been delivered but connection has been made – which is what drives the initiative. In addition to the package deliveries, a subcommittee has been making calls weekly to many of our elder members to check in and schmooze at greater length.

New relationships have been cultivated between members of all ages and the sense of community has been broadened and deepened. In fact, one of the most moving aspects of the program is the debating that takes place between sender and recipient over who should be thanked! The feedback has been humbling and inspiring – from both recipients and participants.

If you would like to participate or make a donation to the program please reach out to Debbie Siegler (debbiesiegler@gmail.com) or Alyson Small (alyson.small@gmail.com)



ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT

Have you heard of the Tikvah Fund? The Tikvah Fund is a philanthropic foundation and ideas institution committed to supporting the intellectual, religious, and political leaders of the Jewish people and the Jewish State.

Visit <https://tikvahfund.org> for interesting podcasts, videos and programs



Podcast: Matti Friedman on the Russian *Aliyah*—30 Years Later

After a decades-long, worldwide campaign to free Soviet Jewry, in the late 1980s the borders of the Soviet Union were finally opened, allowing its Jews to immigrate to the State of Israel. This period saw approximately one million men and women from the former Soviet Union leave and resettle in the Jewish state. They came in fulfillment of Zionist aspirations, in search of material opportunities, and in pursuit of greater freedom.



Podcast: Daniel Gordis on America, Israel, and the Sources of Jewish Resilience

The year 2020 has been one of real suffering. The Coronavirus has infected tens of millions the world over and has taken the lives of a quarter of a million Americans. It's decimated the economy, shuttered businesses, brought low great cities, and immiserated millions who could not even attend funerals or weddings, visit the sick, or console the demoralized.

This podcast focuses on how to think Jewishly about suffering and about the sources of Jewish fortitude in the face of tragedy and challenge.

Click [here](#) to listen to these and other podcasts.

You can also find them on [iTunes](#), [Stitcher](#), [Google Play](#), and [Spotify](#).

NEWS FROM THE SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER AND MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE

The Simon Wiesenthal Center and Museum of Tolerance, in partnership with Club Z, examine: **How Antisemitism Became Anti-Zionism? Jew-Hatred Exposed** in the first of a 3-part series, **Jew-Hatred Exposed: Voices Beyond the Conventional**.

Hear from Dr. Judea Pearl, UCLA professor and head of the Daniel Pearl Foundation; Mark Weitzman, SWC Director of Government Affairs; and Dr. Naya Lekht, Director of Education at Club Z. Moderated by Rabbi Abraham Cooper, Associate Dean and Director of Global Social Action for SWC.

Save the date for Panel 2 in this series, **How Jewish Students Became Targets of Anti-Zionism** scheduled for Sunday, February 21, 2021.

To watch full panel discussion [click here](#)



MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE
A SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER MUSEUM



The Israel Engagement Committee's mission is to engage our community with Israel through information about local culture and events, advocacy, programming and education. Through emails and bulletin board postings, our committee draws attention to important action alerts or events or interest regarding Israel. We welcome input and suggestions from all Ahavath Torah members.

Please contact Irene Gottesman at igottesman@gmail.com if you have any suggestions or are interested in joining the committee.

SAVE THE DATE

PURIM LECTURE WITH RACHEL BESSER WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 at 1:30 PM

Rachel Besser, Chair of The Frisch School's Nach department, teaches Tanach and Jewish philosophy. She is a graduate of Stern College and holds Masters degrees from both the Azrieli Graduate School for Jewish Education and Hunter College (English Literature). She is a noted lecturer on issues of Bible and Jewish thought.

WWW.AHAVATHTORAH.ORG/DORLDOR

Message from the Dor L'Dor Committee:

We can't wait to get back to these "live and in-person" events with the opportunity of seeing old friends and making new acquaintances. Fortunately, we've been able to keep our program alive on an on-going basis during this unprecedented pandemic. Zoom has allowed us to hold our regular pre-holiday talks albeit without lunch. On a positive note, it also means that all events are free for participants. Author Karen Treiger discussed her book *My Soul is Full of Joy* to resounding acclaim this fall. A "virtual" trip to the Jewish Museum took place this January. We continue to safeguard the health of our participants, so watch the weekly calendar and emails for announcements of upcoming events. Participation is not limited to synagogue members and many attendees are from outside Englewood. Please feel free to contact any of the committee members listed below or the synagogue office for more information or with suggestions for future events or to be included on our mailing list. *Stay safe until we meet again.*

Click [here](#) for the recordings of the past events

Dor L'Dor Committee:

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 Diane Katzenstein (omadk@verizon.net)
 Beryl Niewood (beryl.niewood@gmail.com)

Tuesday, March 16	<i>Pre-Pesach Lecture</i> <i>Rabbi Chaim Poupko, speaker</i>
Tuesday, April 13	<i>Shalom Aleichem program</i> <i>With Dennis Waldman</i>
Tuesday, May 11	<i>Pre-Shavuot Lecture</i> <i>Rabbi Mordy Kuessous, speaker</i>
June	<i>TBA</i>
Tuesday, July 13	<i>3 Weeks & Tisha B'Av Lecture</i> <i>Rabbi Daniel Goldberg, speaker</i>

Dor L'Dor had its beginnings over ten years ago in Englewood as the *Road Scholars*, a program run by Rita Blass, o'h and Toby Malzberg who arranged cultural outings for adults; and Barbara Goldin and Ruth Schapiro who brought seniors together to socialize through luncheons, lectures and musical performances. Through the melding the two, Dor L'Dor has blossomed into a popular program offering a variety of cultural and social experiences for adults in Bergen County and beyond.

NEW MEMBERS COMMITTEE

As many of you may remember from your early days at Congregation Ahavath Torah, being a new individual or family in a large community and navigating life at CAT can be daunting at first, with the different minyanim, youth group options, kiddushes, or simply trying to find your lunch hosts, spouse, child, or stroller at the end of shul!

We're blessed to be part of such a large community, but it can definitely be a bit intimidating for new community members moving in.

For that reason, the CAT Welcome Committee runs a buddy family program. The program connects new individuals and families with more seasoned community members who can provide advice and answer questions about moving to Englewood and joining CAT.

We hope that you will consider volunteering to be a buddy family for a new individual or family moving to Englewood.

A buddy family will be responsible for:

- Introducing themselves to the new individual or family
- Providing basic information about CAT, local events and activities, and any other help the individual or family might need navigating the community
- Inviting the new individual or family for a Shabbat

meal and matching them with at least one more Shabbat meal

We are confident that your participation will go a long way in making new community members feel included and comfortable.

If you're interested in being a buddy family, please email Samantha Engelhardt and Dalia Barrocas at welcome@ahavathtorah.org.

Thanks in advance for your participation!

The CAT Welcome Committee

Welcome to the new CAT members:

Elizabeth & Michael Pinewski

Elanit & Matthew Bettinger

Raquel & Ari Cohen

Dalia & Eli Barrocas

Tali & Aryeh Stiefel

Laeqa & Aaron Levy

Elizabeth Cohen & Daniel Levy

Elliot Levy

Jessica Raab & Daniel Kalowitz

SISTERHOOD PRESENTS:

SCAT Women's Learning Series

Tuesday, February 9, 8:00pm

MIXOLOGY & MEGILLAH

"Two's Company, Three's a Crowd: Understanding Esther's Guest List" a lecture given by Yael Weil.

Pre-register by January 26 for the lecture and the cocktail portion of the program, presented by Dan Zelkowitz of Boru Boru by [clicking here](#).

Yael Weil
"Two's Company, Three's a Crowd: Understanding Esther's Guest List"

CAT Sisterhood's Women's Learning Series presents:
MIXOLOGY and MEGILLAH

TUESDAY FEB 9 8 PM ZOOM

PRE-REGISTER BY JAN 26
FOR COCKTAIL PORTION
ahavathtorah.org/form/scatlearning

LEARN TO MAKE A FUN COCKTAIL!
CLASS LED BY DAN ZELKOWITZ OF BORU BORU
(MIXOLOGY TOOL KIT PROVIDED FOR THOSE PRE-REGISTERED BY 1/26 SPONSORED BY CONGREGATION AHAVATH TORAH)

BORU BORU

LIFECYCLE EVENTS

MAZEL TOV TO:

September

- Chava & Kevin Sperber on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Jason
- Jaimie & Stuart Finkelstein on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Matthew
- Atara & Uri Okrent on the birth of a baby girl
- Rabbi Meier Brueckheimer and Sylvia & Mike Krinitz on the engagement of their grandson, Tzvi Silver, to Atira Grossman of Ra'anana. Mazal Tov to parents Leah & itzy Silver and Sharon & Shamai Grossman
- Lorri & Fred Ashe on the engagement of their daughter Rachel to Michael Zaslowky son of Lisa & David Zaslowky of Cedarhurst, NY

October

- Thalia and Danny Federbush on the engagement of their son, Justin, to Daniella Aryeh of NYC.
- Linda & Ilan Kaufthal on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Joseph, son of Abby & Josh Kaufthal
- Gila Alpert on the birth of a grandson born to Chagit & Sruli Merl
- Beryl Niewood on the engagement of her granddaughter, Tess Niewood, daughter of Joanne & Eli Niewood, to Mr. Yossi Koppel, son of Tammy & Robert Koppel.
- Thalia and Danny Federbush on the Aufruf of their son, Justin
- Lisa & Noah Elbogen on the birth of a son. Mazel tov as well to grandparents Lori & Harry Reidler
- Racheli and Shaya Katz on the birth of a baby girl, Serena Hailey
- Renee & Elliot Schreiber on the birth of a new great granddaughter, born to Yarden and Adam Schreiber (of Jerusalem). Mazel tov as well to grandparents Debbie & Michael Schreiber (of Woodmere)
- Doryne & Milton Davis on the birth of a grandson - a son to Alana & Ben-Or Avgee
- Sherri & Larry Shemen on the birth of a grandson - a son born to Miranda & Jesse Shemen in London
- Stephanie and Michael Rich on the birth of a baby boy. Mazel tov as well to grandparents Sheila and Robert Benrimon and Barbara and Stanley Rich
- Thalia and Daniel Federbush on the marriage of their son, Justin, to Daniella Aryeh of New York City

- Zahava & Moshael Straus on the birth of their granddaughter, Joelle Sophia, born to parents Sarah & Michael Neustein
- Aliza & Gary Liebman on the birth of a son
- Reba & Akiva Wulkan on the birth of a granddaughter, born to Megan & Ahron Wulkan of Chicago

November

- Danielle & Asaf Tamir on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jonah
- Melody & Earl Sandor on the wedding of their daughter Liana and Daniel Binyaminov
- Judi & Stuart Poloner on the engagement of their grandson, Ephraim Poloner to Miss Sarah Cohen
- Melanie & Matthew Sosland on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Noah.
- Pam and Robert Lunzer and family on the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Rena, to Eliyahu Kitay of Toms River, NJ
- Irene and Robert Gottesman on the birth of a granddaughter born to Elaine and Jason Katz
- Phyllis & Walter Berkowitz on the birth of a great-grandson born to Rachel & Avi Jacobs of Lawrence, NY
- Emily and Eli Isak on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Rebecca. Mazel Tov to Rebecca's brothers, Benny, William, David and Jonny
- Marla & Ray Glenn on the birth of a grandson born to Gabrielle & Allen Glenn. Mazel tov to great-grandparents Henry & Ester Glenn
- Pearl & Mel Gluck on the birth of a grandson to Ariana & Adam Hotz of Paramus
- Harriet & Herbert Seif on the birth of a granddaughter, born to Orit and Rabbi Yehuda Seif in Israel
- Judy & Shmuel Davidovics on the birth of a granddaughter, Neviah Rachel, born to Sarah and Natan Davidovics, and sister to Amitai, Adir and Tehila

Mazel Tov to this year's Chatanei Torah:

Chatan Torah, Paul Horowitz, son of our members Arlene & Frederick Horowitz.

Chatan Bereishit, Jake Bareket, son of our members Gabriella & Yaron Bareket

BSC Chatanim:

Chatan Torah: Meir Best

Chatan Me'onah: Yoni Cohen

Chatan Bereshit: Navid Rahmani

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MAZEL TOV TO:

December

- Sari & Elad Hibsher on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Noam
- Phyllis & Walter Berkowitz on the birth of a great-granddaughter, Amit Sophia, born to Ariel & Devora Berkowitz of Dallas, Tx
- Mrs. Freidi & Rabbi Shlomo Hyman on the birth of a granddaughter, Reva Hyman, born to Brachi & Yaakov Hyman of Jerusalem
- Rabbi Zev & Chana Reichman on the recent marriage of their daughter Nechama to Daniel Mayerfeld
- Leah and Jacob Almo on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, David
- Aimee & Daniel Ciment on the engagement of their daughter, Ariella, to Hillel Katz
- Ashley & Raviv Gailor on the birth of a son, Mason Samuel, brother to big sister Sienna
- Debbie & Marty Hirsch on the birth of a grandson, born to Natan and Aliza Hirsch
- Sheera Moffson and Kenny Eckstein upon their marriage
- Karen and Kenneth Reiner on the birth of a granddaughter, born to Talia and Etai Barach
- Shari & Maurice Gluckstadt on the birth of a grandson, Zechariah Meir, to Aliyah & Michael Gluckstadt
- Beryl Niewood on the birth of a great granddaughter born to Ben and Aliza Niewood. Mazel tov as well to grandparents Eliahu and Joanne Niewood
- Joelle & Joseph Ben Moha on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Michael
- Leslie-Ann & Eric Fromen on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Noah
- Michelle and Mitchell Weitzner on the birth of a grandson, born to their children Nava & Aryeh Buchen
- Toni and Reuven Nayowitz on being honored at the Project Ezra Virtual Dinner last week
- Rita & Jacob Zylberman the birth of a grandson, Michael Shraga born to Miriam & Rabbi Ari Klapper of Ramat Beit Shemesh
- Gila Alpert on a birth of a grandson, born to parents Leebby and Eli Krause
- Shari & Robert Alter on the birth of a grandson, born to their children Samantha & Kevin Alter in Chicago

CONDOLENCES TO:

September/October

- Mrs. Toby Parker, Ben, & Alex Parker, on the passing of their husband and father, and to Jeffrey & Drew Parker on the passing of their brother, Mr. Michael Parker, ob”m
- Bella Mayerhoff on the passing of her mother, Celia Stern, ob”m
- Dr. Larry Shemen on the passing of his sister, Mrs. Aviva Brickman, ob”m
- Mr. Avram Katz, father of our member Dr. Adriana Foni
- Mr. Harry Gross, father of our members Mindy Kolatch and Vivian Shulman
- Dr. Michael Harris on the passing of his brother, Rabbi Dr. Judah Harris, z”l
- Dr. Stan Goldberg on the passing of his mother, Mrs. Henny Goldberg, ob”m
- Dr. Eric Bentolila on the passing of his mother, Mrs. Jacqueline Solika Bentolila
- Debbie Greenwald on the passing of her father, Mr. Howard Yaffe, ob”m
- Dr. Evan Sehgal on the passing of his mother, Mrs. Ellen Sehgal, ob”m

November

- Dr. Mathilda Anhalt on the passing of her father, Mr. Andrew Burian
- Dr. David Serur on the passing of his father, Mr. Abraham Serur, ob”m
- Mr. Shlomo and Mr. Yossi Pessar on the passing of his brother, Robbie ben Esther and Rachamim, ob”m
- Mrs. Debra Lewkowitz on the passing of her mother, Mrs. Marilyn Schneider

December

- Dr. Nicola Weiss on the passing of her father, Mr. Richard Watson, ob”m
- Ms. Karen Sonneberg on the passing of her father, Mr. Otto Waldman, ob”m
- Mr. Jerry Stein on the passing of his wife, Lore Stein, ob”m

LIFECYCLE EVENTS

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