

---

# The YI/Merrick NEWS

---

**\*\* Mid-Winter Issue 1998 \*\***

You may have noticed that we seemed to have skipped an issue of the newsletter. Well, it's either winter hibernation or I still can't quite figure out Microsoft Word. Anyway, welcome back to all those who went away for Yeshiva break, and to those who stayed behind, we hope that your down time was enjoyable. Last year we went down to Washington D.C. during Yeshiva week, where all you could see for miles were bureaucrats and Jews (or is that one and the same?). As we left the Capitol, a total stranger approached us and said "So nu, what yeshiva do you go to?" And not an intern in sight.....

But now that we are all back on track, how are those Journal ads coming? As you all know, this year's dinner is honoring Stacey and Howard Nathanson. Many people are working hard to make this dinner a success so please pitch in and keep those ads coming.

## **Thanks Gaby**

A great big Kol Hakavod is due to our favorite youth director, Gaby Lakser, who did a bang up job on the Chanukah Chagiga presented by the (Very) Young Israel of Merrick players. The relatives all enjoyed the show and even more importantly the kids had a wonderful time working on the play. Actually, it's given me a whole new perspective. Did you know that in "Hilchot HaForce" it discusses.....

## **Birthdays/Anniversaries**

Happy Birthday to those people who will always be at the head of the class –

David Abikzer - Jan. 31; Varda Baniliv - Jan. 29; Maury Baran

- Jan. 16; Seth Bell - Jan 27; Todd Brand Jan 22, Ilan Hamburg - Jan. 16; Jon Harrison - Jan. 19; Eric Herschmann - Jan 2; Steven Katz - Jan. 31; Steve Reiser - Jan 26; Ira Zimilover - Jan 22.

Anniversaries - Elise and Mark Bell - Jan. 19; Henny and Stuart Rattner - Jan. 9.

## **February Birthdays**

Susan Abikzer - Feb. 14; Mark Bell - Feb. 28; Avery Blumenblatt - Feb. 19; Stuart Daitch - Feb. 27; Samuel David - Feb. 12; Irwin Goldstein - Feb. 24.

Many happy and healthy returns to our all our birthday kids and best wishes until 120.

I'm going to put my foot in it again and attempt to claim that no one seems to have an anniversary in February. I stand and wait to be corrected.

Speaking of corrections, once again I came close but oh so far. It seems that our good friend Zvi Romm did indeed marry a very lovely young woman, but alas

she is not Shifra but Shira. So once again many happy and healthy years to Shira and Zvi.

## **Tzetchem L'Shalom:**

To Penny and Jon Harrison who will be leaving us to join other members of the Tribe in the windy city, Chicago. We wish them and their lovely daughter, Alexandra, all the best and to remind them that we will miss them and to please keep in touch.

## **Bruchim Habaim:**

Welcome back to Lisa and Irwin Goldstein and family and Lois and Aaron David and Family who enjoyed Yeshiva Week in Israel. Welcome back to all our friends who spent their vacation in Florida or other some such resorts.

## **Condolences:**

We would like to take this opportunity to once again offer our condolences to the following members who unfortunately lost loved ones recently:

To Alex Hirsch, upon the loss of his dear mother, Elizabeth. The entire congregation sends its deepest sympathies and condolences to you and your entire family.

To Loren Daitch, upon the loss of her father, Jacob Bonk. We offer our deepest condolences to you, your dear mother, Bernice, your brother Arnie and sister Suzanne, and to your entire family.

To Michael Jacobson upon the loss of his grandmother, Fannie Jacobson.

May we all know only health and happiness from now on. On that note a Committee is being formed to help organize such services as food, chairs, minyanim for those members who unfortunately have lost family members. If you would like to serve on this committee please contact Steve Gage.

### Upcoming Events

On Tuesday, February 17, Rabbi Volk will be starting a series of classes for men and women. On Feb. 17, the classes on tefilla will begin for women, and will continue on alternate Tuesdays. The classes for men will begin on Feb. 24 and likewise will continue on alternate Tuesdays. The topic for the men's classes will be Chumash - Parshat Hashavua. All classes will run from 9:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

### Teenager Shabbat

On Shabbat Parshat Mishpatim, February 21, we are going to show that sometimes smaller is better. One of the nice things about a smaller shul is that everyone gets to participate. So on this Shabbat the teens get to run the shul (in a

manner of speaking - Try doing that in a shul of 400 families. ) They will do the davening, the laying, the aliyot, get quite a few of the kibbudim and even give divrei Torah. Yes, yes, now you will finally find out where all your hard earned money goes. This is being run under the auspices of the Education Committee and this program is headed by Avi Abikzer and David Ritholtz. The division of the aliyot is under the guidance of our gabbai sheini, Jeff Bienenfeld.

Sunday, February 22 - we will once again have our bi-monthly Torah and Bagels class for all kids grades 3rd through 7th, starting at 9:30 a.m.

On Friday, February 27, we will once again have our Teen Discussion Group meeting at the home of Rabbi and Mrs. Volk. It will start at 8:30 p.m. All teens are welcome.

### Purim

Now, while I have your attention, I know it still Tu Beshvat time (you know what Tu Beshvat really signifies, don't you? That's right - just two months until Pesach), but let's discuss Purim.

The plan for the Purim Seudah is in the works but details are being worked on even as we speak and/or read. At the moment, the YIM Purim Seudah will be held at Traditions Restaurant, on Central Ave. in Lawrence. As to exact time, cost, and other pertinent details, the organizers, Debbie Hamburg and Stacey Nathanson will let us know as we get closer to the date.

*"A Tisket, A Tasket, A YIM Purim Basket"* - This year's Mishloach Manot Basket are being organized by Rachel Jacobson and Betsy Stein. *They've done a beautiful job in the*

*past and we know that this year's baskets will be just fabulous (nothing like a little pressure, hey, ladies?) The cost is \$40.- and order forms will follow shortly. Please call Rachel or Betsy for information and orders.*

### Pesach (Ouch!)

A Wine Sale list is being formed for Pesach. More details to follow.

### Other Stuff

Bingo is chugging along (cough, cough) and volunteers and anyone you can drag in are always needed so please join in and call Allen Rosenthal to let him know which Thursdays you can work.

Don't forget to purchase scrip and support your local favorite shul. It's as easy as writing a check and talking on the phone ("Hello, Liza?, I need scrip for Edward's, Waldbaums, etc. oh, and by the way, tell the old man I'd like to work bingo...") .

The Bowling Night held on Feb. 7 was a huge (and lucrative) success. Many people showed up and a good time was had by all.

On April 4th, there will be another New Member Tea. If you would like to participate in any capacity, such as hosting families from out of town, please do not hesitate to contact Loren Daitch. All participation is welcome to make these teas a success.

Statements and opinions presented in signed articles are those of the respective authors, and do not necessarily reflect official opinions of the Young Israel of Merrick.

### Garage Sale

It's that time of year again, when we get to empty out our homes of all unwanted or unused items such

as clothing, old computers, radios, dishes, knickknacks, costume jewelry, toys etc. and put it all in Gail and Richie Stamler's garage. (Bless their hearts - don't they ever learn?) The semi-annual YIM Garage Sale Extravaganza will take place (G-d and weather permitting) on April 26, so please start collecting and bring it on over to the Stamlers.

### **CPR Certification**

On April 28th and May 4th, a CPR Certification Course will be held at the shul. This will consist of two 3-hour courses and will cost \$50.- per person or \$90/couple. Space is limited so please contact Audrey Kurland for more information.

### **Y.I.M. January Board Update**

- 1) Mikveh - S. Gage, as our representative on the Mikveh committee attended their meeting. At that meeting, the finances were discussed as to what it will cost to build and maintain the mikveh.. The intention is to open it in the fall. There was talk of a mikveh dinner or melava malka at that meeting to raise funds.
- 2) YIM Journal Dinner - discussed the need to get the ads in on time so that printer can print it on time.
- 3) Discussed the need for some sort of committee to deal with the organizing food, chairs, minyanim etc. when tragedy strikes a member of the shul.
- 4) There was the formation of a Education/Special Events Committee to deal with such things as scholar-in-residence, speakers, education, Purim, and other chagim. The committee members, under the leadership of Rabbi Volk, are: Avi Abikzer, Varda Banilivy, Steve Hamburg,

Lauren Korman, Stacey Nathanson, and David Ritholtz.

- 5) Building Committee - discussed the need to push the back wall back 17 feet which would allow us 85-100 more seats. Howard Blau has offered to come and help us once again to apply for the variance. If there are more than 99 people, there is the need for a sprinkler system and additional exits.
- 6) Garden - we have received estimates in writing to fix up the lawn, including topsoil and removing the stump.
- 7) Will set up a Scholar- in Residence fund for those who wish to contribute to lecturers coming to speak to the community. Those interested in contributing to this fund should contact Debby Gage.

### **Y.I.M. February Board Update**

- 1) The issue of changing the venue of the Friday night oneg with Gaby and the older kids was brought up. After some discussion, it was agreed that Gaby and the kids would continue to meet at the shul.
- 2) The Journal dinner was discussed. We have a typesetter and ads must be brought in on time. Discussed ads versus tickets.
- 3) It was brought up that kiddushes seem to have become more and more lavish and that is perceived as the norm. It was agreed that kiddushes can be sponsored for \$36 and \$50.- (and obviously more, if the donor decides to). These would be simple cake and soda kiddushes but would make it more manageable for our members. The congregants can contact Avi Abikzer to arrange these type of kiddushes.
- 4) Concerning the All-Hebrew Siddurim that many people use - it was brought up that on the

occasion when special tefillot are said, the page numbers would be announced as well as that of the English-Hebrew Artscroll siddurim. In addition, the same rule would apply to all 4 types of Chumashim when there is a special maftir and/or haftorah recited.

- 5) Rabbi Volk will conduct a series of lectures for men and women on alternate Tuesdays beginning at 9:00 p.m.
- 6) There will be an effort to coordinate publicity for the shul. For the moment this will be organized by the secretary and president of the shul.
- 7) Gaby will put on a Purim play with the kids after Ta'anit Esther. In addition, Gaby has been invited to attend the Journal Dinner.
- 8) The issue of members' participation at meetings was brought up. After much discussion, the Board decided to have three general membership meetings a year so that members can come and express their opinions and issues with the Board and the general membership. The first general membership discussion will be held on Monday March 2, 1998 starting at 9:00 p.m. All are welcome and encouraged to please come and express their views and opinions to the Board. (In addition, members are welcome to come at the beginning of Board meetings. Members are asked to speak to the president before they come, and schedule a specific time to speak to the Board. After individual members speak to the Board, the Board then goes into closed session. This same rule applies to the individual committees that exist. The member must contact the Chairperson of the particular committee and schedule an appointment or be notified of the next meeting - if the committee does not meet on a regular basis -

and come down to speak to the committee.)

- 9) We will be having a scholar-in-residence coming on Shabbat Hagadol. He is Rabbi Dr. David Lukens, who is an aide to Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. He will be speaking on various religious, political, and Israeli issues. The Education Committee is in the process of organizing other speakers throughout the year.
- 10) It was suggested that the Chairpeople of various committees should be encouraged to attend and report to the Board on the various activities of their respective committees.
- 11) It was decided that free passes to the Journal Dinner would be given to two or three prospective member families. A majority of the Board felt that it would be a good investment for the Shul as a means of bringing in unaffiliated Merrick residents as potential members.

### **An Exercise on Exercise by Audrey Kurland:**

It's the beginning of the year again. We're lucky actually; as observant Jews - we have 2 New Years' to make and break resolutions. And if statistics are correct, by now, meaning February, most of us have already broken one, two, three, or more of our resolutions, especially if they have anything to do with diet and/or fitness. So what are we to do? Firstly and most importantly the whole secret of diet and fitness is the fact that it is not a temporary phase of our lives. For any positive and permanent changes to occur, a change in lifestyle must be adapted and this can only be done one very small step at a time. We are only setting ourselves up for failure if we announce to anyone and everyone

who will listen that today I am starting a diet and I am going to the gym 4,5,6 days a week. This time I mean it. Sure you do - until it snows, rains, the kids are home sick, it's Shabbos, Purim, Pesach, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. So take it easy. Set small goals. Today, I will only eat 6 Oreos (since they are Kosher now it is okay to eat one whole box ONCE only.) Today I will walk for 10 minutes. Seriously - in order to see some real fitness progress, it is imperative to do some form of aerobic activity 3 to 4 days a week. Walking is the perfect solution. Shabbos counts. Take an extra walk after lunch before your nap. Take a walk around the block after dinner Friday night. Put your sneakers on and walk to Bagel Boss Sunday morning. That's 3 walks already. In terms of diet - there is no such thing as a diet because a diet implies a temporary state of being. I cannot eat this because I just started. So when you go off your diet, you can eat it? Eat whatever you want -JUST LESS of it! Really, if there are no forbidden foods then everything more or less (but less is better) is okay to eat. But stop when you are full. If you eat a scoop of Haagen Daaz because that's what you want, most likely you will not be looking for something else to satisfy the craving. But if you eat non-fat no sugar glaze because you're in the mood for Haagen Daz, I can guarantee that you will be looking for something else to satisfy the ice cream desire. So if you start walking and stop beating yourself up for every morsel you put in your mouth, then you have taken the first steps to a healthier and fitter lifestyle for 1998.

### **This Month's Web Sites:**

<http://www.jpfo.org/askrabbi.htm> Rabbi R. Mermelstein answers such questions as "Can weapons be carried outdoors on the Sabbath?" Sponsored by Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership  
<http://www.bneiakiva.org/> The web site of Bnei Akiva of the United States and Canada. Programs run by the youth movement of Torah Va'Avodah Religious Zionism  
<http://www.cybershuk.com/tshirt.html> The Judaic and Feminist T-shirt collection. Designs such as Shema=Listen, with the Hebrew letter "Shin" in the shape of the American Sign Language symbol for love.  
<http://www.torah.org/learning/parshta> Divrei Torah, Parshas, Rav Frand, Torah Publications.

I would like to express heartfelt gratitude on behalf of myself and my family for the generous and overwhelming support we received from the Young Israel community during our recent loss. It is extremely comforting and uplifting to know that we live in a community where friends put the needs of others foremost in their thoughts and actions. We look forward to sharing only simchas in the future.

Loren Daitch and family.

**YI/Merrick News Vol 4 No. 5  
Shevat 5758/February 1998**

Published by the

**Young Israel of Merrick**

107 S. Hewlett Avenue  
Merrick, NY 11566

*Editor:* Renée Maynard  
*Layout:* Jeffrey Maynard  
*Production:* Aaron Stein