
The YI/Merrick NEWS

** MEGILLA GORILLA EDITION II **

(Opening Monologue) My, my, my, doesn't time fly when you feel like you're aging at warp speed. Where does the time go? That's right, out the window. It's been a year since we started the YIM newsletter and what a fun year it's been. Some changes - the shul underwent a facelift; we have a wonderful youth director who, amazingly, REALLY likes our kids; the Rabbi will stay will us for at least another 3 years; some new members; some new babies; we're getting pretty good at running Bingo; and, oh yeah, a new "Bored" of Directors.

Purim Timetable:

1) This coming Tuesday March 10, Rabbi Volk will be conducting a class for men and women on Megillas Esther and Purim at the shul at 9.00pm.

2) Ta'anit Esther is Wednesday, March 11. (You know what that means, for some of us, the kids get out of school early, and we get to yell at them while we are fasting). Mincha is 5:40 p.m. Ma'ariv is 6:50 p.m. Megillat Esther will be read at 7:10 p.m. There will be a brief break-fast after Megilla and then the highlight of the evening - The presentation of "I Dream of Purim", presented by the (Very) Young Israel of Merrick Players (i.e. your kids and mine). The producer/director/basic guru is none other than the very talented Gaby Lakser and it's sure to be a lot of fun.(And then maybe my daughter can stop rehearsing the play all over the house.)

3) Purim, Thursday, March 12. - first minyan is at 5:45 a.m. (Gulp!) and second minyan (for those of us who don't have to wake the kids at 6:30 p.m. to catch the bus which always seems to come earlier and earlier), will be at 8:30 a.m. Megilla follows davening. After Megilla reading, there will be the Annual Purim Carnival which is

always a lot of fun, with games, prizes and food. Don't forget to come in costume and join in the fun which will begin at 10:15 a.m. Mincha is at 3:30 p.m. at the shul and you're on your own for Ma'ariv.

4) Just a reminder that if you get this newsletter before March 8, and still want to book, the YIM Purim Seudah will take place at Traditions, Central Ave, Lawrence. For more info, call Debbie Hamburg and/or Stacey Nathanson. Oh, if you're at the seudah, then you can catch Ma'ariv there.

"The Days of Purim and the Megillah of Purim will Never Cease"

The Rabbis have said: "All Festivals will one day cease, but the days of Purim will never cease"(Yalkut Mishley 944). The Rabbis have also said:" All the prophetic Writings will 'cease' in the of the Messiah, excepting for the Scroll of Esther; which will endure eternally like the five books of the Torah, and like the oral Torah. And although, the memory of the troubles Israel has known will 'cease'..., the days of Purim will not. As it is said: 'And these days of Purim will not pass from

among the Jews, and their memory will not cease from their seed.'

In what respect is Purim greater than all the other festivals? All the festivals are sanctified by Israel, and in the future when the world will be completely redeemed - and all its days will be like Shabbat - what value will there be in adding the 'light of Yom Tov' to the pervasive 'light of Shabbat?' What value is there in the light of a lamp at midday? The 'light of Purim.' however, comes from a revelation of holiness above, rather than from the actions of Israel below. This holiness will therefore continue to shed light even in the Messianic age.

In what respect is the Megillah of Esther greater than all the other Prophetic Writings? All the words of the Prophets were intended to support the teachings of the Torah and to sustain its mitzvot. In the future, Messiah will come and he will establish the religion of truth on its proper foundations. All the words of the Prophets will then be fulfilled. And Israel will be engaged in the study and practice of Torah in utter purity, as before their sins and the ensuing reproof of the prophets. The Scroll of Purim, however, is not 'the end-of-a-chapter.' but rather the beginning of the chapter of wiping out

Amalek; a chapter which will come to an end in the future redemption. At that time, when the memory of Amalek will have been completely erased, and Hashem's sovereignty will have become fully revealed, all will recount the mighty actions of Hashem - from Mordechai and Esther till the 'end of days' - which brought about the blotting out of Amalek's memory."

*The Book of our Heritage -
Eliyahu Kitov*

RABBI'S CLASSES

For the class on Tuesday March 10 (Purim), see above. On Tuesday March 17 Rabbi Volk will give his weekly Parshat Hashavua Shiur for both men and women. On Tuesday March 24 the Rabbi will hold his tefillah class for women. On March 31 the Rabbi will be giving a class on Haggadah and Pesach. **All classes start at 9.00pm in the shul.**

LOCAL NEWS

The Merrick-Bellmore-Wantagh Jewish Community Council will be sponsoring the following events:

1) On April 22, there will be a Yom Hashoah program featuring several speakers. The event will be held at The Merrick Jewish Center, 225 Fox Blvd. at 8:15 p.m.

2) On April 26, Rosh Chodesh Iyar, there will be a Yom Ha'atzmaut program featuring the Israeli Orchestra. The event will take place at the Wantagh Jewish Center, 3710 Woodbine Ave., in Wantagh. For more information on any of the JCC's activities, please call Jack Lockspeiser.

TEEN DISCUSSION GROUP

The monthly teen discussion group will be held at the house of Rabbi and Mrs. Volk on Friday evening, March 20 at 8.30pm. All teenagers are welcome for a lively discussion.

“ THE BUS IS HERE!! “

Yes, it's that time of year that should strike terror in the hearts of many parents when you suddenly realize that you can't remember where in the world you put the bus forms. Look hard because they're due at their respective offices by April 1.

“YOU SHOULD BE DANCING, YEAH...”

There has been an interest in bringing back the Israeli/Simcha dancing lessons. We're not quite sure yet which night of the week, but Elaine of West Hempstead will come back to teach us but we do need a minimum of 10 women a week. The cost is \$5.- a lesson, which will be from 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. and will run from after Pesach until the end of the school year, about 10 weeks. If you're interested, please call Risa Zimilover, as soon as possible so we can know whether we have enough people to start the sessions again.

BINGO

I'm going to keep writing about this until everyone calls Allan Rosenthal and begs him to let them have the “z'chut” of working bingo....OK, maybe that's not realistic, but bingo is fun, and it's a great way to help the shul, so please join in and help out.

SCRIP

OK, we'll accept your excuse that you haven't had a need to shop for

food since Rosh Hashanah, but Pesach is coming and you can't fool us. You know that at least one full paycheck is going on food. Scrip is the EASIEST way to help the shul. You need to restock the larder and buy a few extra things along the way so please don't think twice. You're shopping anyway, you're buying food anyway, so you'll make one phone call and voila! you've helped support the shul without breaking a sweat.

Speaking of scrip, while you're stocking up on scrip for **Kosher Emporium**, Larry informs me that all the meat and chicken in the store will be Kosher L'Pesach the day after Purim. As of Monday, March 30, the kitchen and all cooked foods will be Kosher L'Pesach as well. (I must tell you that whenever I call the store and ask for Larry, it reminds me of the old Marx Brothers routine, where they're calling the law firm of Moskowitz, Moskowitz, and Moskowitz. Groucho calls up and asks “Where's Moskowitz”, “He's not in”, “OK, give me Moskowitz”, “He's in a meeting” “Alright, then, let me talk to Moskowitz”, “Sure, hold on a minute”.) Anyway, happy shopping.

Tavlin has their Pesach cake list in with those unbelievable good cakes from Schick's Bakery in Ir Hakodesh(Brooklyn). Isn't it amazing what they can do with potato starch these days? Call Tavlin or stop by for the cake list. The deadline for ordering is coming up sooner than you think.

IF SPRING IS IN THE AIR THEN I MUST NEED A NEW HAT

This year's Hat Sale will be held at Sherel's on Central Ave., in Cedarhurst. The date is March 18,

from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. You can purchase merchandise or a gift certificate and still make the check out to the shul. Once again, a painless way to help the shul, and besides, nothing personal, but you really need some new hats.

WINE SALE

Once again, the shul will be offering a list of wines and grape juices to choose from for your Pesach dining pleasure (I don't know about you but after the combination of matzo, maror, charoset, celery and the first cup of wine - I'm history). Please get your orders over to Lisa Goldstein when you get your lists. If you have any special wine requests, please call Loren Daitch as soon as possible. (Question: if your kids kvetch a lot, does that mean you can open a "whinery"?)

CPR CERTIFICATION

A reminder that on April 28th and May 4th, a CPR Certification Course will be held at the shul It's two 3-hour courses, costing \$50.- per person or \$90.- a couple. Space is limited so please contact Audrey Kurland if you are interested.

GARAGE SALE

So you started cleaning for Pesach and you find things you don't know what to do with? No problem, Gail and Richie Stamler have a knack for turning your plain old stuff into gold. All costume jewelry, computers, furniture, toys, you name it, Gail can sell it. So start collecting and contact Gail.

MARCH MADNESS

Happy Birthday to all those who celebrate their respective Yom Huledet:

Avi Abikzer - March 4; Syma Baran - March 3; Jeremy Bell - March 4; Sherri Bell - March 4; Zachary Daitch - March 8; Eva David - March 18; Steven Gage - March 3; Debbie Herschmann - March 13; David Landau - March 4; Chaim Lockspeiser - March 25; Sharon Maynard - the day Julius Caesar was told to beware of; Rebecca Nathanson - March 8; Julia Reisner - March 6; Adam Somer - (see: Sharon Maynard); Gail Stamler - March 20; Jeryl Volk - March 21.

(Answer to above: March 15 - the ides of March; don't you remember anything from high school?)

Happy Anniversary to all those who decided to start their married life with a nice clean kitchen before Pesach:

Susan and Stuart Brand - March 6; Hindy and Mayer Gross - March 12; Caryn and Jack Lockspeiser - March 19.

Best Wishes to everyone for many happy and healthy year to come until 120!

Mazel Tov to Henny and Stuart Rattner on the birth of a granddaughter, Atara Pessel (Allison Joyce) on Wednesday, Feb. 25. A great big mazel tov to delighted parents, Yaffa and Rick Siegel and to big brother Lenny. May you all have much health, nachas, and joy from this beautiful addition to your family.

Mazel Tov to Jack Lockspeiser and family who heading down to Pittsburgh even as we speak for the wedding of his sister, Beverly to Mr. Mitch Weitzman. Much health, wealth, nachas until 120!

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.

YIM BOARD UPDATE - Monday, March 2, 1998

A **General Membership discussion** was held. The President opened the discussion with of how the shul is growing and how the Board operates. While the Board voted to have the meetings closed, it is concerned with what the members want and encourage them to come forward and speak. So in addition to 1 formal General Membership Meeting a year, there are now 3 general membership discussions. One of the issues brought forward by members was for a better definition of what a committee is i.e. power, role, members. How are its member chosen.? There is a need to give the chairpeople more responsibility and more leeway to run the committee as they see fit, even though they may be criticized by the membership. There was discussion of who appoints committees (President) and whether committees should be opened to the membership for volunteers vs. being appointed to the committee. It was discussed how to involve others in the shul although, it was felt by some that the same people volunteer while some people will complain no matter what. It was felt that the core issue is mindset and we need ongoing programs to involve people in all aspects of running the shul. Some felt that it's not just the responsibility of the Board to involve but members should get other members involved. The final decision was that we are in a refinement process of learning how to run committees (whether on-going or one-time committees) and run them well, and an effort will be made to make the process

more open and involve more people.

Board Meeting:

- 1) Although originally the Board approved a fee of \$75.- to use the warmer for kiddushes, it was decided that since everyone benefits from a hot kiddush, the fee will be rescinded and there will be no fee for use of the warmer.
- 2) The fee for children for this year's journal dinner only, will be - for children sitting at the kids table (below bar/bat mitzvah age) - \$45.-. For older kids (above bar/bat mitzvah) it will be \$75.-, but again, this is a temporary policy for this year's dinner only.
- 3) Discussed the assignment of tickets (for family members only)
- 4) Discussed the need for better coordination of committee and the need to run events more smoothly.
- 5) Discussed the catering needs of the shul for kiddushes and seudat shlishit.

ROSH HASHANAH SEATING

No, this is not a Purim joke. A Seating Committee is being formed to work on the issue of seating for the Yomim Tovim. As you all know, seating is limited and a priority list must be formed. Although nothing is definite at the moment, please do not necessarily count on extra seats for visiting family members just yet. There will be further information available as we get closer to the summer.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As this is our anniversary issue, it's time for a little "hakaras hatov". While I get most of the compliments, credit, and occasional criticism for writing the newsletter, I don't know how many of you are aware of the

amazing team effort there is to get this newsletter to you. If I sent out the newsletter the way I type it, it would look like a college term paper. If I may, I would like to tell you a quick story: When I lived in Tel-Aviv, I went to a wine and cheese evening sponsored by Tnuva, the dairy manufacturer. There was a wonderful professional chef who made the most beautiful centerpieces out of peels of fruits and vegetables. As she arranged the different types of cheeses on crackers, she said to the group, "Don't forget to color-coordinate your cheeses". At which point, we all began to laugh. She looked at us, sternly and said, "Don't laugh. Remember, no one will ever remember how good it tasted, but they'll always remember how beautiful it looked". The typesetting of the newsletter takes a great deal of time and I would like to thank Jeff Bienenfeld and Jeffrey Maynard for making me look good. I know how many hours it takes and how long into the night both gentlemen have worked, so thank you. For the most part, the newsletter doesn't appear in your mailbox by magic. After the newsletter is written and typeset, it is then dropped off at Aaron Stein's house (usually around midnight). Aaron has a team in his office that I'm sure other law firms would kill for. They photocopy, collate, stuff the envelopes, stick on the labels and mail out the newsletter usually on the same day they received it. It should also be mentioned that it was Aaron who strongly encouraged me to do the newsletter when I brought up the idea the previous Succot. To Aaron and his staff, thank you for the production and distribution. I would also like to thank all those who have contributed articles and information for the newsletter. May we continue to share only good news.

This Month's Web Sites:

<http://www.torah.org/learning/yomtov/purim> The Project Genesis site with links to Divrei Torah on Purim.

<http://www.jcn18.com/scripts/jcn18/paper/Article.asp?ArticleID=7>

29 The Jewish Communication Network Purim Holiday Page. If you typed the ridiculously complicated URL correctly, you get links to the Java-Powered Purim Word Search page, the Virtual Megillah Reading, Not Purim, Just Parody, and lots of others.

<http://www.aprilfool.com>

AprilFools.com is really for Purim. Bogus web pages, spoof news stories, virtual vacations, good fun...

<http://www.empirekosher.com/queenesthers.htm>

Queen Esther's Chicken recipe from Empire Kosher.

<http://www.benjerry.com/international/israel.htm>

Ben and Jerry's in Israel, with locations and a full list of flavors including Vanilla Pesek Zman!

<http://www.wzo.org.il/encounter/other.htm>

The World Zionist Organization's super fancy graphics page of Other Purims from the Pedagogical Center, Kiryat Moriah. Includes the Second Purim proclaimed in 1629 by Rabbi Yom Tov Lipman Heller, the Tosefes Yom Tov, for his descendants the second day of Rosh Chodesh Adar to commemorate his deliverance from death.

**YI/Merrick News Vol 5 No. 2
Adar 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