
The YI/Merrick NEWS

** Sukkos Issue 5759 **

Well, Just when you thought you had finally seen the last of the newsletter, here we are. It's not that we took a vacation, it's just that summer seems to be the least relaxing time of year. That's why G-d created school, to give the adults a little free time - and amazingly enough, I'm using it to write the newsletter.

By the time you receive this, I'm hoping that all the little kinks of settling into school have been worked out - but don't even get me started on the bus companies and the illogical musings of the school district.

Rosh Hashana:

Despite some predictions of fist fights breaking out, Rosh Hashana seating worked out remarkably well. Yes, it did get a bit snug at times on the women's side but it did lead to several conclusions : a) Weight Watchers is beginning to look real attractive, b) people behaved wonderfully toward each other in shul c) going away for yontif was definitely a good idea and d) we really need a larger building. We would like to give a huge Kol Hakavod to the Seating Committee who worked very hard to try to please as many people as possible , which was not an easy task. They tried to be considerate to people's wishes and needs and I, for one, as well as many others wish to thank them for their efforts. But now that this year's seating crisis is over, how about sending out the following form to help seat our members?

HIGH HOLIDAY SEATING

To: Congregation Members

From: High Holiday seating Committee

During the last holiday season, many individuals expressed concern over the seating arrangements in the synagogue. In order for us to place you in a seat which will best suit you, we ask you to complete the following questionnaire and return it to the synagogue office as soon as possible:

I wish to be placed in a seat next to someone who wishes to discuss the following topics:

<input type="checkbox"/> Stock Market	<input type="checkbox"/> My neighbors
<input type="checkbox"/> Sports	<input type="checkbox"/> My relatives
<input type="checkbox"/> Fashion news	<input type="checkbox"/> The rabbi
<input type="checkbox"/> General gossip	<input type="checkbox"/> The Baal Tefilla
<input type="checkbox"/> Specific gossip	<input type="checkbox"/> The gabbai
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	

I wish to be seated in a seat where:

<input type="checkbox"/> I can see my spouse over the mechitza
<input type="checkbox"/> I cannot see my spouse over the mechitza
<input type="checkbox"/> I can see my friend's spouse over the mechitza
<input type="checkbox"/> My spouse cannot see me seeing my friend's spouse over the mechitza
<input type="checkbox"/> No one on the bimah can see me talking during services
<input type="checkbox"/> I can sleep during services
<input type="checkbox"/> I can sleep during the rabbi's sermon (additional charge)

I wish to be located next to the following so that I may obtain free professional advice:

<input type="checkbox"/> Lawyer	<input type="checkbox"/> Accountant
<input type="checkbox"/> Doctor	<input type="checkbox"/> Stockbroker
<input type="checkbox"/> Chiropractor	<input type="checkbox"/> Real estate agent
<input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatrist	<input type="checkbox"/> Dentist

Please do not place me anywhere near the following people:

SUCCOT

Succot , Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah are just around the corner.

"Four Species

The four species are taken hold of each of the seven festival days(except Shabbat) and a brachah is said daily over them; after the first day of performing this mitzvah however, 'shehecheyanu' is not said. 'Netilat lulav' is a Torah commandment:

"And you shall take you on the first day, the fruit of the tree, 'hadar', and branches of palm trees, and a bough of the tree, 'avot' and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the L-rd, your G-d seven days (Vayikra 23).

Fruit of the tree hadar - is the **etrog**

Branches of palm tree - is the '**lulav**'

A bough of the tree avot - is the '**hadass**'

Willows of the brook - is the '**aravah**' which usually grows at the river edge.

The taking of the four species all seven days is prescribed by the Torah only in the Sanctuary, whereas everywhere else, only the first day. However, after the destruction of the Sanctuary, Rabbi Yochanan Ben Zakai ordained that the lulav be taken everywhere all seven days, as a memorial to the Sanctuary. The four species together comprise one mitzvah and if anyone of them be missing, the mitzvah is not fulfilled.

It is forbidden to derive pleasure from the fragrance of the "hadassim" all seven festival days since they have been designated for the mitzvah. In the case of the etrog, its fragrance is permissible but it is forbidden for food; the difference being between the 'hadas' and the 'etrog', that the essence of the hadas is its fragrance, while the essence of the etrog is its taste."

Shmini Atzeret:

Shmini Atzeret is a separate festival, and is not tied to the Festival of Sukot, but is only adjacent to it. For this reason 'shechehyanu' is said both by the woman, when she lights the Yom Tov candles and by the man, during Kiddush. The festival is called, 'Shmini Atzeret' after its designation in the Torah (Bamidbar 29) : 'On the eighth day it shall be an atzeret to you...' And this term atzeret is an expression of affection, as would be used by a father to sons who are departing from him. The father would say: 'Your departure is difficult for me, tarry yet another day' (Rashi ibid)." *The Book of our Heritage - Eliyahu Kitov*

Simchat Torah

This year's Chatanim are Michael Jacobson and Steven Reisner. (Is that a loud call for "Kiddush", I hear?) There seems to be a bit of a mystery as to who exactly is Chatan Torah and who is Chatan Bereshit, so, as a joke, our esteemed president said that whoever shows up to shul first get to pick which one he wants. Joking aside, mazel tov to Steve and Mike and their families and may we share many simchas together.

Community Wide Simchat Torah Celebration:

That's right, you read it here first. For the first time, there will be a joint celebration consisting of the five local shul : Temple Israel, Temple Beth Am, Merrick Jewish Center, Cong. Ohav Shalom, and the Young Israel, will have a communal celebration of

the Simchat Torah dancing. According to the YIM timetable it will take place between the 2nd and 3rd hakafah (approximately 8:15p.m/8:30 p.m.). We will be dancing in the Temple Beth Am parking lot with the other shuls. It promises to be a truly exciting celebration and we urge everyone to come and join us for some spirited simcha.

Kiddush:

This year's Simchat Torah Kiddush-luncheon will be sponsored by Aaron David and family, and by Steven Gage and family. Steve is participating because he told Avi that when we hit 50 member families, he would sponsor a luncheon - which only goes to prove the old saying "Be careful what you wish for because you just may get it." Thanks in advance to both families for continuing a nice Simchat Torah tradition.

Nesi'a Tova

To all those families who will be traveling away for the Succot Holiday. Have a safe flight, a wonderful time and a safe return.

It's Time for Some Belated Mazel Tavs:

1) Mazel tov to Elisheva Landau , who, as of May, is not just a nurse anymore but an adult Nurse-Practitioner with and M.S. in Nursing. (I asked her if this now means that we can now ask her for lots of free advice.)

2) Mazel Tov to Benny Maynard who, as a member of the Newbridge Diving Team, brought home the Gold. Benny won first place in his age division in a competition that included all the diving teams of the Town of Hempstead. In addition he won the trophy for best overall diver on the Newbridge team. Way to go, Benny!

3) Mazel Tov to Marshall Kurland on his becoming a Bar-Mitzvah.

Marshall celebrated his Bar-Mitzvah with the Young Israel on September 12 and read his parsha beautifully. Mazel Tov to his loving parent, Audrey and Jacob, and to his siblings Rebecca and Alex. Mazel tov to all the grandparents and to the whole family. May you continue to see much nachas and happiness together for 120 years!

4) Mazel tov to the Romm family who seems to have had a wonderful August. Firstly, mazel tov to Gadi Romm on his marriage to Jana, daughter of Robert and Susan Chasan of Yonkers on August 16. Gadi and Jana are both graduates of Ramaz and Penn State and are currently living in Palo Alto, California where Gadi works for Hewlett-Packard. Secondly, mazel tov to Shira and Rabbi Zvi Romm on the birth of their daughter, Chava Ora on Shabbat, August 29. Mazel Tov to first time grandparents all around : Harry and July Pfeffer and Diane and Rabbi J. Leonard Romm. May you continue to see health, happiness and nachas from the entire family for many years to come until 120.

5) Mazel Tov to Robin and David Ritholtz on the birth of their daughter , Amanda Tova (Esther Tova) on September 13. When I congratulated David on the birth of a daughter after 3 sons by saying, "Ah, it's now a mitzvah", David, without skipping a beat, said "Yes, but only according to the Rambam". Robin said that after 3 sons, she should be guaranteed Gan Eden. Mazel Tov to brothers, Jeffrey, Steven, and Benjy and to all the grandparents. Much nachas, love, and joy until 120.

Some Thanks:

1) Thank you to Janet and Jeffrey Bienenfeld for once again organizing a beautiful (and for the rest of us -- time-saving) Rosh Hashana card. It was lovely and besides, what else did they have to do, Erev Rosh Hashana? Thanks, again.

2) Thank you to Rabbi Baruch Lanner for once again bringing new meaning and inspiration to Shabbat Shuva. His drashot were interesting and insightful and his presence is always welcome in our community.

Fundraising

1) Thanks to the fundraising committee for organizing the Hat Show before Yom tov. It was a huge success with beautiful hats displayed by "Hats by Hedy".

2) Adventureland Outing: There will be a Young Israel outing to Adventure on Chol Ha'moed, Thursday, Oct 8. The price will be \$15 per person for the 'ride all you want' bracelets. The regular price is \$16.95 so the savings can add up. Please contact Liza Rosenthal no later than Wed, Oct 7.

3) Laser Tag - for the adults will I'YH Motzei Shabbat, October 24. A flyer will be sent out shortly with further details.

4) Scrip sales have declined recently. I know that I haven't nagged you about it for a few months so I guess I have quite a lot of nagging to catch up on. Please buy scrip. It's a huge help to the shul without it costing you anything more than a trip to the supermarket or store, Call Loren or Liza for scrip today.

Refu'ah Sh'laima:

The entire Young Israel community continues to wish Debbie and Eric Herschmann a complete and speedy refuah sh'laima for their daughter, Rachel Sara. Rachel is making some progress and we all continue to pray for complete health and happiness for her and her family.

Summer

This turned out to be a particularly sad summer for the shul. We lost a devoted member to the shul, Maurice Wiesenfeld (see obituary below).

The Shul's thoughts and prayers are with Richie Stamler who unfortunately lost his mother, Joan, on July 31st. Condolences to his wife, Gail; his father, Cantor Endre Stamler; and sisters Carol Katz and Jill Twersky. May you only know happiness, peace and health until 120.

Birthdays/Anniversaries

I'm going to apologize to the summer birthdays and anniversaries but this newsletter is beginning to look like a Hallmark Card mailing list so I'm going to start with September and I will try (b'li neder) to get out a summer edition next year:

September:

Happy Birthday - Mishelle Banilivy - Sept.25; Evan Bell - Sept 18; Steven Briskin - Sept 18; Isaac David - Sept 8; Joseph David Sept 7; Maital Goldstein - Sept 24; Kimberly Gross - Sept 2; Emma Jacobson -Sept 20; Eliana and Juliet Jacobson - Sept 9; Shelby Katz - Sept 16; Daphne Landau- Sept 1; Jeffrey Maynard - Sept 24; Stacey Nathanson - Sept 30; Henny Rattner - Sept 20; Rochel Leah Roberts - Sept 4; Corey Stamler - Sept 9;

Happy Anniversary: Sherri and Jack Bell - Sept 8; Erica and Avery Blumenblatt - Sept 14; Debbie and Steve Gage - Sept 1; Lauren and Larry Korman - Sept 17; Renée and Jeffrey Maynard - Sept 13; Liza and Allen Rosenthal - Sept 1; Jeryl and Rabbi Marc Volk - Sept 17.

October:

Happy Birthday - Arlene Abrams - Oct 24; Rachel Abrams - Oct 3; Elana Bienenfeld - Oct 28; Alexander Daitch - Oct 7; Daniel Goldstein - Oct 26; Michael Herschmann - Oct 6; Lauren Korman - Oct 9; Rebecca Kurland - Oct 22; Benny Maynard - Oct 30; Stuart Rattner - Oct 17; Robin Ritholtz - Oct 26; Danielle Rosenthal - Oct 3; Cara Stamler - Oct 26.

Happy Anniversary - Audrey and Jacob Kurland - Oct 21; Betsy and Aaron Stein - Oct 19.

SEPTEMBER BOARD MINUTES

1)The board discussed the Rabbi's housing arrangement.

2) The need for expansion. It was discussed in great length whether we would expand the shul 17 feet or 32 feet.. It was finally voted on that we would go for the smaller expansion

3) We now have a Youth director - Avi Stein. He has some experience. He is originally from Canada and is a junior at Y.U. He starts Yom Kippur and will be with us on the Succot holiday and on Shabbat. There is a need to fill out the youth program for the younger kids.

4) There is need to control the kids when we have a hot Kiddush because some children run around and go near the warmer.

5) There is a need to put a fence around the air-conditioner in the back as the children seem to play on it.

6) Bat-Mitzvahs who have not as yet received gifts will do so in a communal service.

7) Need another table for the basement

8) Dinner Committee - currently deciding on honorees .

9) Community Simchat Torah - which will take place in Beth Am's parking lot. We will go over around 8:15 p.m. There will be no mixed dancing

BINGO ANNIVERSARY

Yes, it seems like only yesterday, that we all said, "Bingo? Are you out of your minds" And yes, some of us mocked the idea of Bingo as a fundraiser. Well, silly us. Bingo has proven to be quite a moneymaker for the shul and a big hakaras hatov is in order. The shul owes a great debt to the three gentlemen who give up their Thursday night for the Shul ; Michael Jacobson, Steve Reisner, and Allen Rosenthal. While many of us work at

Bingo when our schedules afford us, these three are there week after week, inhaling cigarette and flirting with little old ladies, Um...I mean, anything to sell those specials. Many people help in different capacities, whether in the kitchen, in admission, selling the Bell-jars, calling the numbers, selling early and late birds (and making sure that they are in different cash boxes which is no easy feat, I must tell you), selling specials (which no one does better than Danny Reisner). Yes, some of us bring our youngsters to help and the crowd in Levittown enjoy our children and know their names. While the adults who participate are wonderful, I would like to mention the teenagers who make an effort to come and help in anyway possible (and if I leave anyone out - please forgive me); Corey Brand, Michal Hamburg, Ilan Hamburg, Yishai Maynard, Melissa Nathanson, Justine Rosenman and all the others who come to help their parents help the shul. However, we still need more people to help make this a success. People have different schedules and often cannot come to help out as before. Don't tell me you're busy - we're all busy, whether working, in school or taking care of the kids. So please pitch in and call Mike, Steve, and Allen and give it a try. These guys are committed (or maybe they should be committed) to the shul and so should you. Thanks Mike, Steve, and Allen and yes, smoke does get in your eyes.

TOP TEN REASONS TO WORK BINGO by *Yishai Maynard*

- 10) If I have to do it, so do you.
- 9) Does the term "reduction of shul dues" mean anything to you?
- 8) When they call you a "rip-off" artist at Bingo, it's a compliment.
- 7) You get to eat your weight in bagels, doughnuts, chocolate, soda, and coffee.
- 6) Hey, Mets fans it's not like there are any playoff games to watch.

5) After all, it's not like you actually have a life.

4) When was the last time you were called "young man" or "young lady" by people who mean it?

3) You come home smelling like smoke and no one believes that you were at "bingo".

2) It's a "Get Out of House" free card.

1) "Seinfeld" is gone - what else do you have to do?

2)

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.

OBITUARY

Although we have been mourning the loss of Maurice Wiesenfeld since this summer, Yom Kippur reminded us again of the quiet way he and his beloved Mimi enriched our community over the years. It was the Wiesenfelds, who, among many other kindnesses, provided the post-Yom Kippur refreshments each year. Even more than what they provided, was the way they provided it. Without looking for recognition. Without fanfare. The refreshments appeared, and if you thanked either one of them, they seemed mildly embarrassed by the thanks.

It was Maurice's way to keep his talents and achievements quiet. He was a brilliant engineer, recognized worldwide for his contributions to space communications. He had significant achievements in Torah, but refrained from pushing forward his views and opinions. Many of us never knew until he passed on that Maurice was an ordained Rabbi, with S'micha from Torah V'Das. We discovered also that his devotion to Yiddishkeit stemmed from a bargain he made with Heaven when he was a child in Europe, hiding in the woods from the Nazis. He promised that if he would be spared, he would be a true servant of G-d all his days. And he made sure to keep his promise.

He also made sure to maintain a ready escape route, just in case an oppressive regime made life here in America no longer tenable. Many of us wondered why a man who appeared so devout was willing to walk so far to shul, just so he could live on the water and have a boat at his disposal. He claimed to love fishing. But the truth, Mimi revealed at the Shiva, was that the boat was his security after an insecure childhood. It was always fueled and ready to go, summer and winter. If he needed to arrange for his family a quick route out of the country, the boat was available.

We pray that Maurice finds everlasting peace under the protection

of the Divine presence, and that his memory may bring comfort to those who mourn his loss. Our hearts go out to Mimi and the family. May they be comforted among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem, and may there be many opportunities for them to share Simchas in our midst in the years ahead.

Jeffrey Bienenfeld

THANKS

To Barry and the gang at Merrick's Jardin des Fleurs, many thanks for donating the beautiful flower arrangement which graced our Shul for Rosh Hashana.

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This Month's Web Sites:

<http://www.surfsoul.co.il/ss1/index.htm> In your collection of Jewish Web sites, this is one to check out!!!

<http://cs.anu.edu.au/~bdm/dilugim/>
This one is hosted by Brendan McKay, an Australian professor who is spearheading a movement to "unmask" the Torah codes as bunk.

<http://www.torahcodes.co.il/refl.htm> This one is from the people in Israel who originated the Torah code analysis. It is their response to McKay & Co.

<http://www.ohr.org.il/special/sukkos/index.htm> The Ohr Sameach Sukkos page – everything you wanted to know about Sukkos!

<http://www.rhodesjewishmuseum.org/> The web site of the Rhodes Jewish Museum – history of the Jews of Rhodes (Greece).

<http://www.kishinev.org.il> The Jewish Community of Kishinev and Moldova. Remember the Kishinev Pogrom? This is the web site of the Jewish Community of Kishinev in its modern renaissance.

Contributed by Jeffrey Bienenfeld and Jeffrey Maynard