
The YI/Merrick NEWS

** Kislev 1998 – Chanukah Edition **

Chanukah is just around the corner and you know what that means - the yearly, fun tradition of the mishpocha sitting around the ole' menorah and bonding together as you call up the credit card companies and ask them to raise your credit limit once again. Ah, the things that memories are made of.

Shabbaton - December 11 -12. A Message from Rabbi Volk:

Dear Friends,
Once again we will have the opportunity of hearing Torah thought and wisdom from a very special Torah scholar. Rabbi Zvi Romm, with whom we are familiar and know for many years, will join us for Shabbat on December 11 -12. This Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat will have the theme of "Chanukah: Assessing the Unique Jewish Role Within the World." The schedule is as follows:

Friday, December 11: Rabbi Romm's topic will be: "Chanukah - Holiday for the Generations." Time: 8:15 p.m. Oneg Shabbat to follow.

Shabbat morning, December 12: Rabbi Romm will deliver the sermon entitled: "Restlessness As A Religious Imperative." There will be a meat kiddush to follow services.

Shabbat Afternoon, December 12: Rabbi Romm's beautiful and insightful development of Torah will be reflected in the topic: One Small Step for the Spoon - One Giant Leap for a Jewish Kind. Time: 3:20 p.m.

I look forward to seeing you during the course of this Shabbat program. I am confident that our awareness and appreciation of Torah values will grow as a result of our participation. My best wishes to you and yours for a Chanukah Sameach.

Sincerely, **Rabbi Marc S. Volk**

A Chanukah Message :

Chanukah and the Glow of Faith

It seems that the whole story of Chanukah is embodied in the spinning dreidel. Each of its four sides bears a distinct message which, unless read in its entirety, is meaningless. "Nes Gadol Hayah Sham - A Great Miracle Happened There". The tale of triumph that accompanies this festival seems to indicate that the Bnei Yisrael were less than totally victorious. True, the Chashmonaim defeated the Syrians and returned to the Beit Hamikdash. However, the nation was in turmoil. The Kohanim had displaced the tribe of Judah as the kings and leaders of Israel. There were still pockets of Hellenistic influence which affected the sanctity of Yerushalayim. Bribes were offered for the portion of Kohen Godol. Yet we still celebrate. Why? Moreover, why would the rabbis have future generations commemorate an event that has so many aspects unclarified? The answer is established in the fact that although a small amount of pure oil found in the Beit Hamikdash was only a meager manifestation of our victory, its significance transcends quantity. Chanukah, set in the winter, in a time when the night is the longest and the sun shines least, gives us the inspiration to go on. It tells us that we may only see a small part of the victory to come, but we must revel even in its tiniest part. It tells us that although when the dreidel falls we may only see one side, nevertheless; there are more victories that meet the eye. If we celebrate the drops of oil that can last only a fleeting moment, one day we will celebrate the glow of

the Ner Tamid in the Beit Hamikdash. May Hashem bless all of us with the capability to appreciate His handiwork in the framework of small moments and happenings as we grow to understand the large picture of life itself. Jeryl and I would like to wish everyone in the community a Chag Chanukah Sameach.

Rabbi Marc S. Volk

Oneg Shabbat

Rabbi and Mrs. Volk will once again host their monthly teenage Friday night get-together on Friday, December 18, at 8: p.m. at their home. Discussions promise to be lively and interesting as always and besides it's better than fighting with your siblings over the newspapers or even having to talk to your parents. All teens, in grades 7 - 12 are welcome.

Mazel Tov:

- 1) Mazel Tov to the entire Gartner family on the Bar Mitzvah of Adam. Adam became a Bar-Mitzvah On Shabbat, Parshat Bereshit, and he did a terrific job. Mazel Tov to his parents Michelle and Ken, to brothers Sammy and Jonathan, to the grandparents and to the ganze mishpocha.
- 2) Mazel Tov to Benny Maynard on his becoming a Bar-Mitzvah on Shabbat Parshat Vayera. Benny impressed the shul and totally shocked his parents by doing a really nice job in his laying and haftorah. Mazel to parents, Renee and Jeffrey, to siblings (deep breath), Yishai, Meira, Navah, and Sharona. A special

mazel tov to Benny's grandparents, Daphne and Stanley Maynard who flew in from England for this special occasion. Mazel tov to the whole family.

May all our bar mitzvah boys and their families enjoy only much health, happiness, and nachas until 120.

One can never have enough simchas and this simcha takes the cake. A huge and hearty mazel tov to Gail, Richie, and the entire Stamler clan, on the birth of their beautiful baby boy, Joshua Zachary, on Oct. 15.

These people give new meaning to the word "miracle". Mazel Tov to siblings, Corey and Cara and to the grandparents, Adele and Dan Roseman, and Cantor Andre Stamler.

May you always have health, happiness, and nachas from all your children, and here's a thought; now the kids outnumber you.

New Membership Tea:

A tea for new members and potential new members will be held on Motzei Shabbat, December 12. For more information and to participate, please contact Loren Daitch at 379-7720.

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.

Bowling:

There will be a bowling night on Motzei Shabbat, December 26. It will be held at the Garden City Bowl, at 8:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Debbie Goldstein.

Condolences:

The entire Young Israel wishes once again to extend their condolences to Steven Briskin on the loss of his father, Mitchell. Our sympathies are extended to his mother, Beatrice and sister Arlene. May you now only know happiness and peace until 120. As mentioned before, Chanukah is coming and for a change of pace, what better way to celebrate than after you light the fifth candle you....come on down and help out at Bingo. Yes, there must be some religious

correlation between the gashmiyut of Chanukah and the gashmiyut of Bingo. I don't know. Just call the Three Musketeers (Allen, Michael, and Steve) and bring some chocolate Chanukah gelt for the patrons.

Scrip:

You've got to buy potatoes and oil, right? How about a new frying pan? Or maybe that diamond watch for that lovely aishet chayil of yours? (ok, I can dream, you know.) Well, scrip is the answer. Buy scrip for supermarkets, and a variety of stores and at the same time you will be giving a Chanukah gift to the shul. Nu? Call Liza and Loren and place your order.

The YI November Board Minutes Update:

1) Steven Gage met with the Town of Hempstead to discuss the neighbors' complaints about us.

2) There was a meeting with the architect concerning the building. Among the things discussed the future appearance of the exterior of the building and how it would be expanded. We would like the building to be more commercial looking (i.e. name on front). Among the topics discussed were the use of an expeditor, to help organize things so that the entire process runs more smoothly; the possible interior plans of the building; the type of construction material; the use of attorneys, etc.

3) Mikveh Plans - There is currently a basic idea of how the building will look. YINB owns 4 lots and the Board of YINB needs to decide whether they will approve selling or leasing the 1 - 2 lots needed to build the mikveh.

4) Aliyahs - for the second 'misheberach' - a request was made to ask Board permission to remind people to give the pledge. Members will receive just one reminder and hopefully they will respond. Board approved trying it for a 2 month period.

Birthdays:

Yom Huledet Sameach to the following kids at heart:

November : Isabelle Abikzer - Nov.9; Max Banilivy - Nov. 12; Jack Bell - Nov. 23; Janet Bienenfeld - Nov. 18; Olivia Bondarsky - Nov. 29; Loren - Nov. 26; Miryam David - Nov. 29; Devora David - Nov. 13; Eric Gross - Nov. 1; Michal Hamburg - Nov. 10; Adam Hirsch - Nov. 15; Rachel Jacobson - Nov. 18; Hedy Katz - Nov. 15; Jacob Kurland - Nov. 9; Julie Lockspeiser - Nov. 17.

December : Alana Abikzer - Dec. 23; Gavriella Abrams - Dec. 17; Eric Bienenfeld - Dec. 16; Susan Brand - Dec. 15; Rebecca David - Dec. 24; Hanna David - Dec. 14; Ilana Goldstein - Dec. 10; Steve Hamburg - Dec. 1; Josh Hamburg - Dec. 22; Zachary Katz - Dec. 27; Larry Korman - Dec. 11; Rachel Levine - Dec. 9; Navah Maynard - Dec. 31 (our little tax deduction); Howard Nathanson - Dec. 17; Melissa Nathanson - Dec. 10; Rivka Kromholz - Dec. 28; Richie Stamler - Dec. 18; Rabbi Marc Volk - Dec. 4. Anniversaries: Don't the years just fly by when you're paying a hefty mortgage?

November : Not a single one - fuggedaboutit!!

December : Susan and Avi Abikzer - Dec. 25; Arlene and David Abrams - Dec. 26; Stacey and Howard Nathanson - Dec. 11.

What Kind of Member

This was handed to me by our esteemed Vice President, Allen Rosenthal:

What Kind of Member

Are you an active member-----The kind that would be missed?

Or are you just content-----That your name is on the list?

Do you attend meetings-----And mingle with the flock?

Or do you stay at home-----And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part-----To help the work along?

Or are you satisfied to be one-----Of those that just belongs?

Come out to meetings often-----And help with hand and heart?

Don't be just a member-----But
take an active part!
Think it over, member-----You
know right from wrong.
Are you an active member-----Or
do you just belong?
- Anonymous -

Recipes:

It's hard to come up with original
recipes for Chanukah so let's stick
with the theme of potatoes:

Potato Kugel Muffins:

2 Tbsp. plus 6 tbsp oil

3 medium onions

5 lbs. Idaho potatoes

1 1/2 Tbsp. salt

1/2 tsp black pepper

1 - 2 tsp. paprika

5 eggs, lightly beaten

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Chop
onions. Heat 2 tbsp oil in skillet and
sauté until clear to light brown.

Using 2 (12 form) muffin pans, place
1/4 tsp oil in each muffin cup. Heat
in oven for 5 to 7 minutes. Coarsely
grate potatoes; press out excess liquid.

Add eggs, sautéed onions, salt and
pepper to potatoes. Pour mixture into
the hot oil, filling each muffin 3/4
full. Sprinkle paprika on top. Bake
for 5 minutes, then reduce
temperature to 350 degrees for 30 to
40 minutes or until medium brown.

Creamy Scalloped Potatoes:

4 -6 medium potatoes

Salt and pepper to taste

3 Tbsp margarine

3 Tbsp flour

2 tsp instant chicken soup mix

1 1/2 boiling water

paprika

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Slice
potatoes very thinly. Arrange layers
of potatoes in a well-greased 2 quart
casserole. Sprinkle each layer with
salt and pepper. Over medium heat,
melt margarine. Add flour and soup
mix; mix until smooth. Add boiling
water and cook over medium heat,
stirring until bubbly and thick. Add
salt and pepper to taste. Pour hot
sauce over potatoes. Sprinkle with
paprika. Bake, covered, for 45, then
uncovered for 30 minutes, or until
tender and golden brown.

This Month's Web Sites:

<http://www.torah.org/learning/maharal/shavuos.html> The Maharal on Shavuos, a class taught by Rabbi Shaya Karlinsky.

<http://www.torah.org> Torah on the Information Superhighway. "The best site for serious Jewish education on the Internet - period."

<http://www.jewishgen.org> The primary Internet source for Jewish Genealogy. Look up your surname in the many databases. Find your ancestral town.

<http://www.wzo.org.il/alivah/alivah.htm> The Student and Academics Department of the World Zionist Organization present comprehensive Aliyah information.

<http://208.150.11.101/content.htm> The Orthodox Union Cyber Home of Torah.

<http://www.ligolf.com/merrrdgc.htm> Merrick Park Golf Course. All the information. Course Layout.

<http://lilrc1.lilrc.org/~mk1/cd.htm> The Merrick Library's embarrassingly outdated Merrick community directory. Has Steve Hamburg as Shul President!

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