

Purim Chagigah Rocks the House!

The JEC Levy Auditorium once again was the setting for the annual Elmora Shul Purim Chagigah, held this year on *motzoei Shabbos Parashas T'zaveh*/March 3rd. The atmosphere was even more charged than usual, as most attendees knew that all seating for the accompanying *m'laveh malkah* was (thanks to the efforts of many Shul members, led by Board Chair of Programming Alex Engel, Alice Hall, and Rachie Niren) sold out days in advance and as the featured entertainer was (thanks to the initial suggestion of Avrumy Safrin) the popular and dynamic Yehuda!. (Kudos also to Elie Bodner and the many teenagers who helped set this event up, as well as to the other Chagigah Committee members, including Rivkie Becker, Rabbi and Rebbetzin Herman, Faige and David Hornung, Lee Niren, Avrumy, and Marsha Schenker, all of whom worked hard to ensure its success -- their combined *hishtadlus* was most evident! Many thanks also to the many sponsors for their support.) The hours of joy and celebration which followed the opening of those Levy Auditorium doors made the evening truly memorable in the annals of Elmora Shul history!

After a *Ma'ariv*-completion service which featured a lively *Megilah* reading, *Chagigah* attendees (over 330 people!) sat down at tables beautifully decorated by Batsheva Kent and by Avenue Flowers and were treated to a dairy repast (including bagels, cream cheese, tuna salad, and hot dishes such as broccoli kugel and pasta-based entrées) catered by One Stop Kosher. In due time, the room lights were turned down and the show's spotlights took over. Yehuda! got his show (which he tailored for our community) underway with a rip-roaring rendition of "*Kos Yeshuos [...LaYhudim haysa Orah]*" and followed it with (as he noted, moving on from singing about one miracle to singing about another) "*Mi Chamocho.*" Together with tossing glow necklaces into the crowd and choosing many audience volunteers (including many eager youngsters and Gershon Freudenberger, d/b/a "The Freudenberger Rebbe"), as well as bringing a lot of attendees with him on a Conga Line, he sang his heart out -- as can be seen from the accompanying pictures (courtesy of the Nirens), the dancing was spirited and wonderful to behold and join in with. Hours later, even after most of the parents and grandparents had gone home, Yehuda! was still going strong entertaining the teenagers and other stalwarts who wished to keep on celebratin' the special day. Next year, may we merit ratcheting the level of *simchah* up many more notches by celebrating the coming of *Mashiach* with Yehuda! and all community members in the special city identified with *Sheivet Yehuda* and *Am Yisrael!*



ADULT EDUCATION: Streaming-Internet *shiurim* come to Elizabeth!

Thanks to the hard work of our Elmora Shul Adult Education Committee, headed by Board member Howard Goldsmith, we have the privilege of utilizing the JEC's Internet setup in order to bring to our community live *shiurim* occurring elsewhere. The first of what we hope will be many, many such presentations occurred on *motzoei Shabbos*, March 10th, in the JEC Reibel Beis Medrash, as Rabbi Yisroel Reisman's weekly *shiur* on *N'vi'im* was made available to all. The Internet-stream provider, Torah Conferencing Network, allows us to connect to its server only just before the program begins; combined with that night's *shiur* being our very first presentation, the slight delay and initial problems obtaining proper bandwidth were most understandable, but Howard and Akiva Miller quickly and efficiently resolved the problems, and the dozens of attendees enjoyed a wonderful discourse on Ruth, including issues such as precisely when she converted to Judaism.

The Adult Education Committee anticipates that Rabbi Reisman's *motzoei-Shabbos shiur* and Rabbi Yissocher Frand's Thursday-night Chumash *shiur* will become part of our Shul's regular Torah-learning schedule. Other special offerings are expected, such as Rabbi Paysach Krohn's pre-Pesach lecture on March 25th. Since these exceptional offerings are not without cost, we are hoping that our members and others from within the community will step forward to help sponsor the cost of the program, equipment (projector and laptop), and/or individual *shiurim*.

Many thanks to Rabbi Avrohom Herman and Howard Goldsmith for their roles in initiating this effort and thanks again to Akiva for his invaluable help. Anyone with general computer ability who can volunteer to be a member of the technical team, and any magnanimous donor who would like to take advantage of sponsorship opportunities, is asked to contact Howard at 908-558-1920. A small contribution of your time and/or financial resources can result in a tremendous *harbotzas haTorah!* Thank you.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

In an effort to keep our members well-informed, we have instituted this column with the most updated information available on a myriad of topics.

News Flash* We are considering providing a basic Kiddush in the Levy Auditorium after *Shabbos*-morning *davening* whenever possible. Many thanks to the Davises for sponsoring the recent *P'Terumah* Kiddush for an extremely-special occasion (the anniversary of their grandson *leining* the weekly *sedra* for the first time in our Shul). If you have any thoughts or comments on the concept of a weekly post-*davening* Kiddush, please get in touch with David Cheslow at JECShulBoard@aol.com.

News Flash* On May 5th, there will be a new *Shabbos Hachnosas Orchim* program introduced to the community whereby families will be encouraged to host or be guests at the home of another community family whom they wish to get to know better. The

SENIORS CELEBRATE SHUSHAN PURIM!

Amy Bassan, Coordinator

Despite the cold weather, over 30 seniors gathered in the gym for the Elmora Avenue Shul's Shushan Purim Party. The pizzazz-packed program began with a Purim *shpiel* presented by a group of Bruriah students. The *shpiel* was followed by a Purim Poetry Presentation prepared by the 6th grade girls under the direction of their teacher, Mrs. Maccabee. After the presentation, each student presented the seniors with *mishloach manot* in a hand-decorated mini-bag. This was in addition to the *mishloach manot* that were already next to each place setting on the beautiful tables.

After all the presentations, it was time to eat. The beautiful buffet was catered by Glatt Star Catering (a.k.a. One Stop Kosher). There was a variety of deli, bread, and salads to choose from as well as steaming-hot stuffed cabbage. For dessert, there were *hamantaschen* (what else?) as well as tea and coffee. The Shushan Purim "Seudah" was a terrific time to relax with, schmooze with, and enjoy the camaraderie of friends.

Shortly before dessert, Rabbi Herman spoke. Those present were inspired and educated by Rabbi Herman's *d'var Torah* on the *megillah*. Rabbi Herman also welcomed the seniors, thanked the sponsors and expressed appreciation to all the volunteers.

The sponsors included Marsha and Marty Schenker (gold sponsors), Al and Miriam Reisman (silver sponsors), and Joel and Charlotte Zimmerman (silver sponsors). An additional donation was made by Mrs. Fanny Katz in honor of the engagement of her grandson, Shlomo Katz, to Chavi Fisher. *Yasher koach* to all of them for supporting our programs.

Thanks also to the volunteers who worked to make this happen: Zisi Freudenberger planned and coordinated many of the details; Abby Engel helped Zisi set up the elegant tables; Lisa Bond worked to ensure that the food would be just right; Marsha Schenker, Beverly Winter, and Amy Bassan made numerous phone calls (Marsha and Amy were also on hand to assist with whatever was needed on that day); and Chana Salamon transported the Bruriah girls to and from our program. We are lucky to have so many willing and able volunteers!

As Pesach occurs over the first week in April, our next Lunch-and-Learn program will *i'y'H* be on May 2nd. We hope to have a special end-of-year program as well. If you would like more information on volunteering, sponsoring, or participating in any of the senior programs, please contact Amy Bassan, 908-354-3129. Thank you!

Expanded Elizabeth Chevra Kadisha Holds First Annual “Zayin Adar” *Seudah*

Rabbi Avrohom Herman began the breakfast meeting by sourcing the concept of “chesed shel emes” in Ya'akov's request to be buried with his forefathers (beginning of P' Vaychi). He quoted the Sifsei Chachamim's interpretation of RaShY ad loc. in order to demonstrate that the ultimate acts of kindness can be done for those who survive a *p'tira* and not just for the *niftar*. The *nimshal* is that a *Chevra* invigorated by recent volunteers can and should handle not only the *tahara* and care of the *niftar* but also setting up the *beis aveil* for the *shiv'a*, coordinating meals and *minyanim*, and the like, all actions on behalf of the *niftar's* family.

Longtime Chevra Kadisha of Elizabeth head Arthur Scheuer reported that the recent community drive for volunteers resulted in a number of noteworthy initial accomplishments and mentioned two: many had volunteered to join in and eventually become full members of teams doing *taharos*, and two community members had volunteered to coordinate the all-important aspects mentioned by Rabbi Herman -- Rachie Niren will handle meals and Barry Wacholder house setup. That said, there still are many challenges and unresolved issues, including not many people volunteering to handle aspects of house setup, a lack of basic house-setup needs such as sturdy mourning chairs and special *siddurim*, and a lack of easy access to the equipment currently owned by the *Chevra*. In order to ease future coordination, all *Chevra* members will soon be asked to note times of availability, cell telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses.

Rabbi Jonathan Schwartz, *Rav* of our sister congregation, Adath Israel, added that the greatest challenge in supplying meals for the family often relates to the *seudas havra'ah* (the first meal after the *kevurah*) and food for others returning from the *kevurah*. While the *Chevra* intends to take care of these initial meals, it also will coordinate all *shiv'a* meals with the community organizations, such as the AI Circle of Life and the Elmora Sisterhood, that currently help mourners with such needs.

Many thanks to Aida Gold and Mavis Rosenstein for planning and setting up the meeting and for obtaining the tasty platters of tuna, egg, etc. salad and other breakfast food and drink; to Bill Goldfischer, Esther Steinhardt, and Rivka Weiner for helping them with the supplies and setup; and to Jean Zimmer for volunteering to miss the initial portion of the event in order to bring the rolls to the attendees after they were delivered to One Stop Kosher. While, as Mr. Scheuer noted, we all hope that the *Chevra* suffers from a paucity of requests for its services, we thank its new and veteran members for their willingness to act in such a giving manner upon a moment's notice and look forward to the promise of effective, “one phone call” coordination and kindness on behalf of any fellow Jew who, *lo aleinu*, suffers the loss of a loved one.

committee for this program includes R. Chaim Hagler, Miriam Heller, Rachie Niren and Richard Rosenzweig. Details to follow!

News Flash* On May 20th, there will be an “Open Community Sunday” in the Levy Auditorium to welcome new people to our community. Different institutions within the community, including real estate agents from this side of town, will have an information table present at the event. If you know of someone interested in buying a home, please endeavor to have him/her/them come to our community on this day; if he/she/they want to visit the community over the weekend, please get in touch with Chaim Hagler at cehaqler@optonline.net.

MAZEL TOV, MAZEL TOV!!

Edna & Ian Alexander on the marriage of grandson
Ofir Mordechai Alexander to Chagit Lazerovitch
Susan & Dr. Lester Eckman on the birth of a granddaughter
Gabi Elyaszadeh & his parents Homeira & Moshe, on his bar mitzva
Marcy & Jeff Frank on the birth of a daughter
Marsha & Yehoshua Horowitz on Yissy's engagement to Jillian Wildman
Roz & Fred Katz on their grandson's bar mitzva
Rachael & Michael Katz on Shlomo's engagement to Chavie Fischer; and to the
grandparents, Fanny Katz and Barbara & Dr. Bernie Lichstein
Miriam & Marty Knecht on the birth of a granddaughter
Barbara & Mark Mason on the birth of a grandson
Sheila & Marty Nashofer on Moshe's marriage to Bracha Cohen
Marsha & Martin Schenker on the birth of a grandson; and to the
great-grandfather, Herman Yeager
Helene & Arthur Scheuer on the birth of a granddaughter
Elisheva & Rav Elazar Teitz on their grandson's bar mitzva

CONDOLENCES

Aaron Stier and Evelyn Stier on the loss of their brother
Jackie Stiskin on the loss of her husband

COMING SOON...

Please remember to circle the following important dates:

March 25th: community broadcast of Rabbi Krohn's pre-Pesach lecture

March 31st: Shabbos haGadol Community Luncheon

April 12th: first community broadcast of Rabbi Frand's weekly Chumash shiur!

May 20th: Open Community Sunday

calendar for mid-March through April 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
18	19	20 Rosh Chodesh Nisan	21 Shiur: Pesach Review: Kashering & Products by Rabbi Herman 8PM @ JEC Reibel BM	22	23 6:53p Candle lighting	24 Parashat Vayikra 7:58p Havdalah (45 min)
25 R' Paysach Krohn pre-Pesach Shiur 8PM @ JEC Reibel BM	26	27	28	29	30 7:01p Candle lighting	31 Parashat Tzav Shabbos HaShofei 8:06p Havdalah (45 min) Community Luncheon late morning, JEC Levy Auditorium
1	2 T'anis E'choros Eiver Pesach 7:04p Candle lighting	3 Pesach I 8:06p Candle lighting	4 Pesach II 8:09p Havdalah (45 min)	5 Pesach III (Chol HaMoed D)	6 Pesach IV (Chol HaMoed II) 7:06p Candle lighting	7 Pesach V (Chol HaMoed III) 8:13p Havdalah (45 min)
8 Pesach VI (Chol HaMoed IV) 7:10p Candle lighting	9 Pesach VII 8:15p Candle lighting	10 Pesach VIII 8:16p Havdalah (45 min)	11	12	13 7:15p Candle lighting	14 Parashat Shmini 8:20p Havdalah (45 min)
15 Yom HaShoah	16	17	18 Rosh Chodesh Iyar	19 Rosh Chodesh Iyar	20 7:23p Candle lighting	21 Parashat Samra-Metzora 8:27p Havdalah (45 min)
22 Yom HaZikaron	23 Yom HaAtzma'ut	24	25	26	27 7:30p Candle lighting	28 Parashat Acharei Mos-K'doshim 8:34p Havdalah (45 min)
29	30					

“IT’S A BIG DAY IN ELIZABETH”

David Cheslow, Chairman of the Shul Board

Shabbat is the day that most of us have our greatest contact with the JEC Shul. There are also many other activities available to our membership during the week.

The many classes are listed in the bulletins and newsletters.

In addition, every member has an opportunity to make an impact within the Shul. Aside from the Rabbi, the youth director and the office and maintenance staffs, all the planning and organizing are done by volunteers. To serve on a committee, to be involved in a particular program or to add something new, all you need to do is step up.

You can help out with the youth, with the seniors, with this newsletter, with the young couples group, with the sisterhood, with the weekly Kiddush. You can help with the clerical work; you can help with the audio/visual adult education programs. We all have talents and abilities which can be put to use for the benefit of the community.

Our Shul is important to all of us; each of us, in our own way can help to make it better.

Thanks for reading, be well,

Dave

From the Editor’s Desk....

Sheila Nashofer

I get a tremendous surge of adrenaline as I see each issue of HaMagid go to press, jam-packed with information relating to our Shul's many programs and offerings. This is proof positive of just how vibrant our Shul is and of how many possibilities to connect there are for each and every member and their families. I am honored to be a part of this endeavor, and I would like to extend a big *Yasher Koach* to Michael Poppers, who has assumed more responsibility for this newsletter than I know he ever dreamed of and does so with a warm smile and a tremendous level of cooperation and initiative. Thanks also to our esteemed Rabbi Herman, who is always at the forefront of everything we seek to accomplish in this Shul and who serves as a constant guide for this publication.

As David Cheslow mentioned in his article, HaMagid is a wonderful venue for members' participation. There are openings for writing, for soliciting articles and advertisements, and for distribution of the newsletter, and we welcome newcomers to join us in this labor of love. Please feel free to email me at SheilaNashofer@yahoo.com if you are interested and with any comments you may have.

We are attempting to make HaMagid a permanent communications tool for our Shul and must begin the next issue as we print up this one. In that vein, please feel free to submit to me any articles you deem appropriate or to leave a copy (printed, typed, or even handwritten) in the JEC Business Office earmarked for "HaMagid." As our next issue will be prior to *Shavuot*, please think along those lines as you write.

Best wishes from all of us associated with HaMagid to you and your families for a wonderful P-P-P...oh, my gosh, Pesach....better start cleaning in between working on the issues :-)!

Question 2: Do closets and cabinets storing *chometz* have to be cleaned out?

Answer: *Halachically*, they do not have to be cleaned out from crumbs of *chometz*. The crumbs are *batei*, nullified, on their own, and since they will be locked away there is no concern of possibly eating them. For those who sell all their *chometz*, even larger crumbs/pieces pose no problem because they will be sold with the rest of the *chometz* which are in the storage areas.

Question 3: Do areas storing *chometz* that will be sold have to be checked for *chometz* during the *bedikah*?

Answer: There are two opinions about having to do a *bedikah* in those areas. Some say a *bedikah* is necessary; others opine that it is not necessary - since the areas with the *chometz* which will be sold are also being rented to the non-Jew beginning before Pesach, they are no longer in the possession of the Jew to require a *bedikah*. One can rely on the lenient opinion and not do a *bedikah* unless one's *minhag* is to nevertheless do a *bedikah*.

Question 4: Do people leaving their homes have to clean their homes for Pesach and do a *bedikah*?

Answer: People who leave their homes within thirty days of Pesach are obligated to do a *bedikah* the night before they leave. If, however, they do not plan on returning or entering until after Pesach, they can treat their whole house as a place that is being rented to the non-Jew for the entire Pesach, with any *chometz* in the house being sold to the non-Jew. The house becomes like a large closet filled with *chometz* being rented to the non-Jew. The owners can then rely on the answer given to Question 2 and not clean their house for Pesach. They can also rely on the lenient opinion cited in the answer to Question 3 and not do a *bedikah* on the whole house. In order to fulfill the *mitzvah* of *bedikas chometz*, however, a room or two should not be rented out to the non-Jew so that it remains the property of the Jewish owner, who then has an obligation to clean it from *chometz* and do a *bedikah* the night before he leaves the house. The *bedikah* is done without a *brachah* if he leaves before the night of the 14th of Nisan, and with a *brachah* on the night of the 14th if he leaves subsequently; in either case, a *bitul chometz*, nullification, is said afterwards.

Question 5: If one is staying in someone's house or apartment, or is a guest in a hotel, does one have to do a *bedikas chometz*?

Answer: If a *bedikas chometz* was not done by the person who normally lives there, and that person did not rent to a non-Jew the rooms to be used in order to avoid the obligation of *bedikah*, then it must be done by the guests with a *brachah*. The *bedikah* only has to be done in those rooms which the guests plan on using. The other rooms should be closed off.

JEC Elmora Shul

Shabbas Hagadol Luncheon

Sat., March 31, 2007

Challah Rolls
Individual Gefilta Fish with Horseradish & Carrots
Mixed Green Salad with Cherry Tomatoes, Cucumbers,
Hearts of Palm & Cherry Vinaigrette dressing
Family Style Platter: Turkey Breast, Corn beef, Pastrami, Salami,
Bologna, Fried Chicken 1/8ths
Mustard, Ketchup, Mayo
Homemade Potato Kugel,
Sweet Noodle Kugel with Raisins,
Beef Chulent
Pesto Pasta Salad, Coleslaw, Pickles
Assorted Cake & Cookie Platter per table
Tea, Sugar & Sweet 'N' Low
Seltzer, Coke & Sprite

Price per person: \$18.00/Shul member adult (age 13-up), \$25.00/nonmember adult
\$14.00/Shul member child (age 5-12), \$16.00/nonmember child
Family cap: \$65 for members \$75 for nonmembers
NO CHARGE for children less than five years of age!

Paid reservations must be received in JEC Business Office no later than Mon., 3/26/2007

Family Name _____

Adults _____ Children age 5-12 _____ Children younger than 5 _____

Seating preference _____

Total Submitted _____



PESACH Q&A

Rabbi Avrohom Herman

Due to the vast amount of *halachos* related to Pesach and the complexity of these laws and activities, it is no wonder that more questions are asked about Pesach than about any other Yom Tov. Below are five commonly-asked questions pertaining to the *mitzvah* of *bedikas chometz*. I hope that you find the answers which follow helpful in your preparations for Pesach. If any further clarification of these points is necessary, or for any other questions, please feel free to call me anytime at the Shul office, **908-355-4850 X104** [Editor's note: for full contact information, see <http://elmora.thejec.org/addrbook/raherman.htm>]. For a list of links to helpful Pesach guides from reliable Kashrus-supervision authorities, see <http://www.kashrut.com/Passover/>.

I would like to wish everyone a *Chag Kosher V'sameach*, and may we be *zocheh* to the fulfillment of our *tefillah* at the Seder, *L'shanah Ha'ba'ah BiYrushalayim*.

Question 1: Can I just sell my *chometz* that is put away in closed rooms and closets in my house, or would it better to not have any remain in my possession?

Answer: One can completely rely on the sale of *chometz* and not remove the *chometz* which is on his property. One just has to make sure that all *chometz* products are stored in closed and clearly-marked places, so that no one accidentally goes there during Pesach and inadvertently benefits from the *chometz*. Some *chometz*, however, should specifically not be sold, so that the *mitzvah* of *biyur chometz*, burning *chometz*, can be fulfilled on the *chometz* that you own.

There are those who in addition to selling *chometz* will, to various degrees, remove *chometz* from their possession and not rely on its sale. There is *halachic* basis for such a position. That said, even those who try to remove all their *chometz* must also sell their *chometz*. Not selling *chometz* can lead to many unforeseen problems. Besides the obvious food products that are known to be *chometz*, there are still many products containing *chometz* which are usually left in one's home, either knowingly or unknowingly. If not sold, all Jews will not be able to benefit from many of those products even after Pesach.