

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!

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 Tsav 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 :-)!



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.