

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!*



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 *kevrurah*) and food for others returning from the *kevrurah*. 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

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 _____