

# THE CLANTON PARK HERALD

A monthly newsletter, intended to provide timely and pertinent information to shul members  
Volume 1, Issue 1, Rosh Chodesh Av 5764

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## ***From the Rabbi...***

### **THE FEAST OF THE OCTOPUS**

Rabbi Yehoshua Weber

You haven't, perchance, heard of **autophagy**, have you? You have? Well, then you're two steps ahead of me. I, for one, was completely unfamiliar with the autophagic process until I read about the octopus's macabre eating habits. The octopus, it seems, eats many things. It eats crustaceans, it eats fish, it eats mollusks and, relating to our current discussion, under certain conditions it even eats itself. The octopus's act of self-immolation is called autophagy

Do people ever practice autophagy? Do people ever act like octopi that feast on their own flesh? Come with me and examine a Gemara that, I believe, opens a window into the inner workings of the human mind and its autophagic inclinations.

The Gemara, in Gittin 55, in recounting the litany of miseries that befell us on Tisha B'av, tells the oft-repeated Bar Kamtza tale. It goes as follows. During the waning years of the second bais ha'mikdash, a party was being hosted in Jerusalem. An invitation was supposed to be sent to one of the host's friends, a man named Kamtza. There was a misunderstanding of some kind and Bar Kamtza, the host's enemy, received the invitation instead. Bar Kamtza, taking the invitation at face value and assuming that the invitation was the host's way of burying old hatchets, went to the party expecting to have a wonderful time. His disappointment was not long in coming.

The host noticed his enemy, Bar Kamtza, in attendance. Not acknowledging or not wanting to acknowledge that Bar Kamtza had, in fact, been duly invited, the host had Bar Kamtza summarily ejected. Bar Kamtza was enraged. Bar Kamtza's rage was exacerbated by the fact that

none of the attendees interceded on his behalf. And so Bar Kamtza began conspiring with the ruling Roman authorities against the Jewish community that allowed for the debacle at the party. Bar Kamtza's conspiracies led to political intrigues that culminated in the destruction of the bais ha'mikdash.

The story is both well known and well developed. What is not as well known, what is not as well developed is the autophagic undertone. Bar Kamtza was a Jew, a resident of Jerusalem and a resident of Eretz Yisrael. The web of agony that Bar Kamtza's intrigues with the Romans spun was borne by all Jews, all of Jerusalem and all of Eretz Yisrael. Bar Kamtza, the weaver of this web, and his circle of family and friends must have also been drawn into the vortex of destruction. Bar Kamtza, in his quest to consume his enemies, octopus-like, consumed himself as well.

It is a familiar, tiresome tale of small people and their small vendettas who, wittingly or unwittingly, self-immolate in their desire to "get even". It is a chronicle with endless variations but one basic theme; webs of pettiness consume not just their intended victims, but also, and more so, the weavers of those very webs.

This Tisha B'av, let us ask ourselves if we have learned from the second destruction. You "beat" a friend, a relative or a spouse in an argument and you are suffused with feelings of content, you hear the ringing of success, because the windows have blue and not, grey drapes. That contentment, is it perhaps from the feast of the octopus? That triumphant ringing, is it perhaps from the death knell of a friend-ship? Might it not be advisable to carefully reconsider before you try to best an argument?

Next time you get all caught up in attempting to win an argument, ask yourself: Am I, perhaps, preparing, the feast of the octopus?

## ***The President's Report***

### **MUSINGS FROM GARY**

Gary Kopstick

I want to give a "Yasher Co-ach" to everyone who contributed to the re-introduction of the Shul Bulletin.

It is a privilege to be president of a Shul that I feel exemplifies dedication and respect for differing opinions and ideas. I believe we are blessed with spiritual, executive and lay leaders who are highly talented and freely give of themselves.

Two initiatives that we are embarking on are: the updating of our constitution and forming a strategic planning committee to plan for our future. We invite suggestions from everyone, which can be forwarded to our vice-presidents (Moishe and Sammy) or to me.

Thanks to the initiative of Dr. Alan and Susan Seidenfeld, we may soon be enjoying live weekly Shiurim delivered by satellite from US/Israel to our Shul. (Editor's Note: see **Shul News** on page 3 for full story.)

## **Milestones**

### **Mazel Tovs**

Paul and Chavi Jacobs	Marriage of daughter
Jerry and Miriam Faivish	Marriage of daughter
Dr. and Mrs. David Rosenthal	Marriage of daughter
Prof. and Mrs. Paul Socken	Marriage of daughter
Murray and Clara Shore	Marriage of daughter
Norm and Arlene Weisbart	Marriage of son
Gary and Helen Muzin	Marriage of son
Dr. and Mrs. Allan Seidenfeld	Marriage of son
Tommy and Linda Sandel	Engagement of son
Arthur Herzig	Bar mitzvah of son
Mr. and Mrs. M. Lax	Bar mitzvah of son
Dr. and Mrs. L. Warner	Bar mitzvah of son
Robbie and Rose Anne Karoli	Bar mitzvah of son
Dr. and Mrs. Neil Hahn	Bar mitzvah of son
Kenny and Faye Stollon	Bar mitzvah of son
Yudi and Sorah Plonka	Bar mitzvah of son
Rabbi and Mrs. Kubayov	Bar mitzvah of son
Gershon and Faigie Kaplan	Birth of granddaughter
Kenny and Miriam Goldstein	Birth of granddaughter
Chuck and Agie Nagel	Birth of granddaughter
Murray and Clara Shore	Birth of granddaughter
David and Esther Taub	Birth of granddaughter
Dr. and Mrs. G. Rothenstein	Birth of granddaughter
Dr. and Mrs. Allan Seidenfeld	Birth of granddaughter
David and Ruthie Segal	Birth of granddaughter
Eli and Yaffa Adler	Birth of granddaughter
Magda Orner	Birth of granddaughter
Irwin and Ruthie Diamond	Birth of grandson
Norm and Arlene Weisbart	Birth of grandson
Anshel and Judy Lebowitz	Birth of grandson
Ernie and Susan Greenwald	Birth of grandson
Mr. and Mrs. M. Mandelbaum	Birth of grandson

### **Condolences**

Agie Nagel	Loss of father
Mrs. Leibowitz	Loss of mother
Vera Edell	Loss of father
Sherri Nussbaum	Loss of father
Barbara Abrams	Loss of father
Arlene Weisbart	Loss of father
Mrs. Nathan Katz	Loss of husband
Joel Tencer	Loss of father
Sandy Hofstetter	Loss of wife
Bobbie Silverstein	Loss of father
Chayim Rubin	Loss of father

### **Website/Email**



Did you know the shul has a website? Check out [www.clantonpark.com](http://www.clantonpark.com).

Would you like this newsletter emailed to you? Send your email address to [bulletin@clantonpark.com](mailto:bulletin@clantonpark.com)

### **Youth Corner**



Kids! If you would like to contribute an article, a story, or a poem to our next issue, simply email to: [bulliten@clantonpark.com](mailto:bulliten@clantonpark.com)

The regular Junior Minyan will start up again after Rosh Chodesh Elul.

Also starting in Elul, there will once again be a Kids' Minyan, which will take place in the library. Stay tuned for more details.

The Clanton Park Baseball League was a huge success. We hope to see everyone at the BBQ on Labour Day, Monday, September 6 at 5PM.

For more information on upcoming youth programs, contact Aitan Lerner or Yitzchak Kaplan.

## Shul News

*Renovations ...* You may have noticed the extensive renovations and maintenance work that has been recently done in and around the shul. These include: re-tiling of change room in mikveh, filling-in of front lawn, repair of parapet, and pruning and weeding in park area.

*Oxygen ...* Two oxygen kits have been purchased for the shul and are prominently displayed. These can be used for emergency purposes – G-d Forbid – and are part of the shul's commitment to the safety of its members.

*Yashar koach to Jack Hirshman...* who has done a thorough analysis of the shul's heating, cooling and ventilation systems, and has saved the shul - -- literally -- thousands of dollars in energy costs.

*Satellite hook-up to shiurim...* Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Allan and Susan Seidenfeld, the shul will soon be installing a satellite dish which will allow groups in the shul to "sit-in" on live shiurim, given by Rabbaim in the US and Israel. The technology can also be set up to be interactive. We will provide more details on this exciting 21<sup>st</sup> century approach to learning as they develop.

## Community News

*Be a link in a "living chain" ...* thousands of people will form a "living chain" from Jerusalem to Gush Katif on July 25<sup>th</sup> in solidarity with the Jews of Gaza. If you are interested in joining this protest, please call Anne Maurer (416) 457-2625.

*Kohen Alert ...* Baycrest Hospital now has a "Kohen Line" that kohanim can call to make sure it is safe – from a tumah perspective --to enter the building. Call (416) 785-2500 ext. 5444.

*Businesses interested in advertising ...*in our Rosh Hashana edition of the newsletter – at incredibly low rates -- please email [bulletin@clantonpark.com](mailto:bulletin@clantonpark.com) or call Ken Stollon (416) 493-9560 ext. 2102.

## General Disclaimer

The editor of this newsletter has made every attempt to be thorough and accurate. If names have been misspelled, if simchas or condolences were inadvertently omitted, if information is incorrect in any way, please send an email to [bulletin@clantonpark.com](mailto:bulletin@clantonpark.com) and corrections will be made in the next edition of the newsletter.

***It's your shul... want to get more involved? Volunteer? Help out? Sponsor a kiddush? Here's a handy contact list....***

Rabbi	R. Yehoshua Weber
Shammas	Eli Yaffa
<b>Board of Directors</b>	
President	Gary Kopstick
First Vice-President	Moshe Shields
Second Vice-President	Sammy Nussbaum
Gabbai	Gershon Kaplan
Gabbai	Dr. Yehudi Shields
Immediate Past President	Joseph Edell
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Hall Rental	Wayne Kurtz
Programming	Howard Lyons
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High Holiday Tickets and Membership	Mendy Goldman
Communication	Norman Weisbart
House Chairman	Manuel Kanner
Hashkama Minyan	Paul Brown
Library	Sid Wellman
Secretary	Ken Goldstein
Chevra Kadisha	Hersch Kanner

*Small joke (filler)...* Two hydrogen atoms walk into a bar. One says, "I've lost my electron". The other says, "Are you sure?" The first replies, "Yes, I'm positive..."

