

THE CLANTON PARK HERALD

A newsletter intended to provide timely a

Message From the Rav ...

PARSHAS BALAK

TO BLESS YOURSELF OR TO CURSE YOUR ENEMY?

"And he (Balak, the king of Moav) sent messengers to Bilam saying go curse for me the Jewish people, for they are stronger than me and I will drive them out of the land" (*Bamidbar 22,5-6*).

Balak, the king of Moav, was afraid. The *kelal yisrael* that had just vanquished two of the ancient Near East's most powerful empires was now perched like a looming nightmare on Moav's border. And so, Moav circled its wagons and attempted to defend home and hearth by calling upon Bilam to curse *kelal yisrael*. The Torah, though, looks at Moav's seemingly sensible attempt at self-defence and finds incorrigible fault. The fault, it is there for all to see: "A Moavite (who converts) may not join the Assembly of Hashem (to marry a Jew), even after ten generations because they hired Bilam to curse you" (*Devarim 23, 4-5*). The evil of the Moavite curse is so great that the Moavite people are blemished forevermore.

Is the fault so terrible? Is a king who protects his people from an invading force evil? Is an attempt at self-defence so unforgivable?

No, self-defence is neither terrible, nor is it unforgivable. But if you read the pesukim carefully, you will notice that the Moavite focus was not on self-defence. Had their focus been on self-protection, Moav would not have been cursing *kelal yisrael* but would, instead, have been blessing themselves. That is what a people seeking self-protection does: It improves and it blesses its own forces. But instead of strengthening itself, the Moavites attempted to undermine their enemies.

Such negativism, such a small-minded focus on destroying the other, rather than strengthening the self is indicative of a character flaw of frightening dimensions. This negativism might be deeply imbedded in the national psyche of the Moavite people; it might very well be the prime reason for the Torah's distancing of the Moavite convert.

The Moavites are not the only ones who are faced with challenges, are they? We all confront challenges, all the time. Competitions for a promotion at work, for an award at school are part and parcel of everyday life. When such challenges and competitions arise, what approach do we take? Do we bless ourselves by putting our best foot forward and by trying our hardest? Or do we demean ourselves by cursing and disparaging our competitor? Remember that disparaging the other is reminiscent of the Moavite approach. Such disparagement did not serve the Moavites well in earlier times; it will most assuredly not be of much benefit to us today.

S O C I A L N E W S

MAZEL TOVS



Sponsored by ...

ZEMER ORCHESTRA

(416) 633-5936

"Toronto's Freilich Orchestra!"

and

WAYNE KURTZ DIGITAL STUDIOS

(416) 633-4941

"May we only meet b'simcha"

BIRTHS

Mazel Tov to **Hanoch and Celia Bernath** on the birth of a granddaughter, Malka, to Aaron and Yona Bernath. Mazel Tov to Yona's grandparents Rabbi Yehudah and Tamara Gilden and to the great grandparents Ruven and Dvora Bernath. May Malka grow *I'Torah I'Chupah ul'Maasim Tovim* and be source of *nachas* to her family and all of *klal Yisrael*.

Mazel Tov to Shaya and Micky Klein on the birth of a baby boy. Mazel Tov to the grandparents **Mich and Betty Klein** and Marty and Philicia Brin of Detroit. May the baby boy grow *I'Torah I'Chupah ul'Maasim Tovim* and be a source of *nachas* to his family and all of *klal Yisrael*.

Mazel Tov to Dovy and Reva Silber on the birth of twin baby girls, Shira and Adina. Mazel Tov to the grandparents **George and Esther Rothenstein** and Tibi Silber. and to the great grandparents **Mr. and Mrs. Israel Green** and Mrs. Moskowitz. May Shira and Adina grow *I'Torah I'Chupah ul'Maasim Tovim* and be sources of *nachas* to their family and all of *klal Yisrael*

BIRTHS (cont'd)

Mazel Tov to **Tibor and Susie Klein** on the birth of a grandson, Yitzchak Yosef, in Eretz Yisrael.. Mazel Tov to the the parents Chesky and Chanie Siberstein and to the grandparents Dovid and Tzila Silberstein of New York and to the great grandparents **Mr. Morris Groszberger** and Mr. and Mrs. Herman Klein. May Yitzchak Yosef grow *I'Torah I'Chupah ul'Maasim Tovim* and be a source of *nachas* to his family and all of *klal Yisrael*.

Mazel Tov to **Paul and Chavi Jacobs** on the birth of a grandson, Mordechai. Mazel Tov to the the parents Elyan and Avi Rosenbaum and to the grandparents Dr. Jacob and Rebecca Rosenbaum and to the greatgrandmother Mrs. Rose Romrovsky. May Mordechai grow *I'Torah I'Chupah ul'Maasim Tovim* and be a source of *nachas* to his family and all of *klal Yisrael*.

Mazel Tov to **Dr. Ze'ev and Chaviva Diena** on the birth of a daughter, Yael. Mazel Tov to the grandparents **Rabbi Leo and Faigie Davids** and Mr. and Mrs. Diena and to the great grandmother Mrs. Annie Shields.. May Yael grow *I'Torah I'Chupah ul'Maasim Tovim* and be source of *nachas* to her family and all of *klal Yisrael*.

Mazel Tov to **Murray and Clara Shore** on the birth of a grandson. Menachem. Mazel Tov to the parents Nachum and Chana Shore and to Chana's parents Drs. Bob and Esther Libman. May Menachem grow *I'Torah I'Chupah ul'Maasim Tovim* and be a source of *nachas* to his family and all of *klal Yisrael*.

Mazel Tov to **Mr. & Mrs. Sandy Hofstedter** on the birth of a great granddaughter.

ENGAGEMENTS

Mazel Tov to **Mrs. Shulamit Witty** on the engagement of her granddaughter, Golda Atara Straumer to Avinoam Erdfarb of Monsey, New York. Mazel Tov to Golda Atara's parents, Jackie and Leah Straumer of Taeneck, New Jersey. May the wedding take place *b'sha'ah tovah u'mutzlachas* and may they be *zocheh* to build a *bayis ne'eman b'yisrael*.

Mazel Tov on the engagement of **Aliza Mann** to Akiva Goldberg. Aliza is the daughter of **Ruthie Mann & Mechel Mann** and the granddaughter of **Anschel & Judy Lebowitz** and Chana Mann & the late Yitzchok Mann ה"ע. Akiva Goldberg is the son of Chaim Goldberg & Sharon Goldberg & the grandson of Noach Goldberg & the late Yocheved Goldberg ל"ר. May the wedding take place *b'sha'ah tovah u'mutzlachas* and may they be *zocheh* to build a *bayis ne'eman b'yisrael*.

Mazel Tov to **David and Sara Plonka** on the engagement of their daughter Shira to Shua Tenenbaum. Mazel Tov to Shua's parents, Meyer and Leah Tenenbaum. Mazel Tov to the grandparents Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Plonka, Mr. & Mrs. Okseberg, Mr. & Mrs. Hershel Tenenbaum and Mrs. Gittel Rosensweig. May the wedding take place *b'sha'ah tovah u'mutzlachas* and may they be *zocheh* to build a *bayis ne'eman b'yisrael*.

Mazel Tov to **Goel and Soheila, Daniel and David Sabeti**, on the engagement of their son and brother **Mordechai** to Tova Stone of Thornhill. Mazel Tov to the Tova's parents, Arnold and Sheila Stone and to her grandmother, Mrs. Ida Abenstein. May the wedding take place *b'sha'ah tovah u'mutzlachat* and may they *zocheh* to build a *bayis ne'eman b'yisrael* and be a source of nachat to their families and all klal Yisrael.

Mazel Tov to **Robbie and Rosanne Karoly** on the engagement of their daughter, Dayna to Adam Westreich. Mazel Tov to Adam's parents, Leslie and Shira Westreich. Mazel Tov to the grandparents, Mayer and Ida Karoly and Mr. and Mrs. Seidel of North Miami Beach. May the wedding take place

ENGAGEMENTS (cont'd)

b'sha'ah tovah u'mutzlachas and may they be *zocheh* to build a *bayis ne'eman b'yisrael*.

WEDDINGS

Mazel Tov to **Chaim and Devorah Marmor**, on the marriage of their daughter, Shoshana, to Moshe Slepoy of Passaic, New Jersey. Mazel Tov to Moshe's parents, Rabbi Ephraim and Rivki Slepoy and to the grandparents, **Moshe and Bessie Marmor**, David and Marilyn Goldkorn, Martin and Bea Slepoy, and Sara Elstein. Mazel Tov as well to **Dr. David and Miriam Rosenthal** (Shoshana's uncle and aunt). May the couple be *zocheh* to build a *bayis ne'eman b'Yisrael*

Mazel Tov to Shira, daughter of **Arthur and Tali (ה"ע) Herzig**, on her marriage to Noah Turk of Thornhill, son of Johah and Elizabeth Turk. Mazel Tov to the grandparents, **David and Leah Herzig**, Sara Frankel of Tel Aviv, Harry and Penina Turk and Irv and Rose Bravman and to Noah's great-grandmother, Fayga Rusinek. Mazel Tov as well to Shira's uncle and aunt, **Dr. Jack and Terri Sandler**. May the couple be *zocheh* to build a *bayis ne'eman b'Yisrael*

Mazel Tov to **Mrs. Malka Hahn**, on the marriage of her grandson, Reuven Frankel to Naomi Lazarus. Mazel Tov to Reuven's parents, Mechel and Brenda Frankel and to Naomi's parents Mr. & Mrs. Yoel Lazarus of Far Rockaway, New York. May the couple be *zocheh* to build a *bayis ne'eman b'Yisrael*

CONDOLENCES

Rabbi Yehoshua Weber on the passing of his father Mr. Hersh Weber in New York.

Mrs. Francine Phillip on the passing of her father Mr. Joseph Kirshenblatt.

Mrs. Betty Katzman on the passing of her father Mr. Yisroel Stercz

Mrs. Tzipporah Hoffmitz on the passing of her mother Mrs. Jocelyn Mader-Heroux.

May the families only know of simchas !

SHUL GENERAL NEWS

EXECUTIVE UPDATE

The first meeting of the 2007/08 Executive took place on Monday June 25th, 2007. Nadine Bressler and Dr. Jack Sandler were invited to the meeting to address the Executive.

Nadine raised Sisterhood issues such as funding for Sisterhood events, immediate need for a mechitza solution, safety of shul playground equipment and clear access for women to the staircases. Executive members, Norm Weisbart and Manuel Kanner volunteered to research a feasible mechitza solution compatible specifically for our shul's current structure. This has been established as a high priority item.

The issue of boys and young men congregating on the stairs to the women's section was quite disturbing. This causes many women to feel uncomfortable as they climb the stairs and could be quite dangerous in the event of an emergency. The Executive decided that effective immediately the staircases leading to the women's section are to **remain clear at all times**, and the boys and young men currently congregating on the steps will be asked to refrain from doing so. An announcement to this effect will be made from the pulpit; fathers will be asked to monitor their sons and, if necessary, a

committee will be set up to enforce the situation.

Jack presented his proposal regarding emergency preparedness within the shul including the requirement for emergency medical resuscitation equipment (i.e. defibrillator), supplies (i.e. readily accessible emergency box containing items for establishing intravenous and airway access as well as suitable medications) and Advanced Cardiac Life Support training courses for interested members particularly physicians and dentists within the congregation. The Executive approved the proposal and requested that he begin to source out his recommended model and report his findings back to Senior Executive for approval. This has been established as a high priority item.

Some other items on the agenda included:

- House update (air conditioning components have been ordered)
- Sderot campaign update (see article elsewhere in this newsletter)
- Yeshiva University Summer Kollel Program update (see article elsewhere in this newsletter)
- Scheduling of upcoming Executive meeting for 2007/2008 (meetings to be held the last Monday of each month)

SDEROT CAMPAIGN



פיקוח נפש דוחה את הכל SAVING A LIFE IN DANGER SUPERCEDES ALL ELSE

Due to the *chesed* and generosity of the members of the shul, Clanton Park Synagogue has raised about 90% of the sufficient funds required (\$36,000 USD) for the purchase of a badly needed transportable bomb shelter through **Operation Lifeshield**, for immediate deployment in Sderot.

Currently there are not enough permanent shelters available and not enough time or funds to build more. Operation LifeShield shelters are built to safely prevent the penetration of bullets, shrapnel and missile fragmentation, as well as injury from explosion concussion and shock waves. They can also withstand a direct hit of some missiles. The shelters are freestanding above ground units that can hold up to 30 people in an air raid emergency. They are approved by the IDF Home Front Command.

Together we can feel that we have contributed to fulfilling our obligation of saving the lives in jeopardy in Sderot by providing the funds for the purchase of an emergency prefab bomb shelter.

This week the process began of sending the funds already collected as efforts continue to raise the remaining funds.

A plaque will be affixed to the shelter acknowledging that Clanton Park Synagogue has provided the funding for the

the purchase of the shelter but a decision has yet to be made in whose memory it will be dedicated.

A Yasher Koach to Morris Sosnovitch who has coordinated this campaign and to all the volunteers who participated in helping raise the funds! If you have not yet made a donation or are able to increase your donation please speak to Morris ASAP so that remaining funds required to reach the \$36,000 USD goal can be achieved.

SPECIAL DONATION



A Yasher Koach to **Tommy Kohn** for donating bookcases to the shul for use on the main floor for storage of siddurim and chumasim which previously would be left on the benches or window sills due to insufficient space in the storage spaces behind each bench in the main sanctuary.

Please return any siddurim or chumasim taken from these bookcases in order to ensure that seating space is available for what it is intended, i.e. the congregants.

Torah Conference Network (TCN)

The TCN series of shiurim by Rabbi Reisman and Rabbi Frand have concluded for this season. Thank you to all who have attended the shiurim and for your contributions.

Resumption of shiurim will take place around Rosh Hashana time. Further information will be available via Shabbos announcements, email messages, postings on the shul bulletin boards and shul telephone messages. It is encouraged and highly recommended that all members consider attending these shiurim.

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY RIETS
SUMMER KOLLEL
PROGRAM
TORONTO 2007 / 5767

Clanton Park and Or Chaim in partnership are sponsoring a Community Program every Sunday Morning from July 8th – August 12th. The program will alternate each week between Clanton Park and Or Chaim with Clanton Park hosting 3 Sundays (1st, 3rd and 5th weeks) and Or Chaim 2 Sundays (2nd and 4th weeks).

The Program schedule is as follows:

8:15 am	Shacharit
8:45 am	Light Breakfast
9:00 am	Confronting Modernity: Upholding Tradition with Rabbi Shmuel Marcus
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minhag and the Masses: The Power of What People Do • The Spiritual Significance of Melody and Song • The Parameters of Yichus: Paternity and Maternity in Reproductive Medicine • Contemporary Chumras: Prudent or Excessive ?
10:00 am	Torah Buffet – Engage in study in the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer • Jersulam through the Ages • Tanach • Jewish Thought • Talmud • Jewish Law
10:45am	Open Beit Midrash & One-on-One Chavruta Learning

In addition, there will be every morning (Monday -Thursday) a Kollel Program at Or Chaim . As well, there will be an exciting Kollel Shabbaton in the community on August 4th.

For more information on the YU Summer Kollel, please call (416) 783-6960, email Canada@yu.edu or speak to **Ken Stollon**.

TAMMUZ / AV
FAST DAYS
SCHEDULE

17 TAMMUZ

Tuesday July 3rd

Fast Begins	4:29 AM
Shacharis	6:30/6:55 AM
Chatzos	1:22 PM
Mincha	8:40 PM
Ma'ariv	9:35 PM
Fast Ends	9:43 PM

9 AV

Monday July 23rd

Mincha	6:45 PM
Fast Begins	8:50 PM
Ma'ariv	9:10 PM

Tuesday July 24th

Shacharis	6:30/7:30 AM
Chatzos	1:22 PM
Mincha	8:05 PM
Ma'ariv	9:25 PM
Fast Ends	9:35 PM

Note: For confirmation of 9 Av (Tisha B'Av) schedule please check the AV / ELUL Schedule which will be available on the Clanton Park web site as well as printed copies in the shul the week of July 16th.

At the time of publication of this bulletin plans were still being finalized re: any special programming (shiurim/ Tisha B'Av film etc.) scheduled for Tisha B'Av. Announcements of details will be forthcoming.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

SPRING SUCCESSES

SHAVUOS



The Sisterhood has had a couple of busy months. On Shavuot, shul members were welcomed into the Main Sanctuary lavishly decorated with lush and fragrant greenery and flowers. Special thanks to Annie Tencer, Leah Weber, Rosie Roth, Rachel, Brina and Nadine Bressler for giving the shul the real Yom Tov'dik atmosphere.

ROSH CHODESH



Shmuel Kanner's Summer Savoury Delicacies was a sizzling success! Shelley Lipson's kitchen was over capacity as women came to watch and learn new cooking techniques and recipes. Rebbetzin Witty gave a beautiful Dvar Torah. Many thanks to Shelley for hosting this event.

GARAGE SALE FUNDRAISER



What has six legs, wheels, and goes "kachunk, kachunk, kachunk?" That would be Nadine Bressler pushing a computer table on a small dolly down Almore Avenue to the Weber's house just before Shabbos for the garage sale...Mich Klein wanted to hitch a ride to shul but couldn't be guaranteed safe arrival. The Weber's garage was stuffed to the beams, the Rabbi's study had the overflow, and the weather report was favourable. We had no clue what those boxes contained and what surprises Sunday would bring...

Sunday AM: dark thunder clouds forming—say a quick tefilla for the rain to hold off until the evening. Posters and advertising say "no early birds" but of course the pros come at 7:30 a.m. Our own early birds are quick to the task to set up and sell!!

Fastest Flip: Gary Kopstick offered to bring two bicycles and within 5 minutes of dropping them off, they're sold.

Best Hawker: Leah Dina Weber unabashedly hawking drinks, ice cream and Popsicles to garage sale hounds.

Best Negotiator: Brina Bressler. She's tough!

ROSH CHODESH SUMMERY SAVOURY DELICACIES



Fastest out of the starting gate: Gittel Rosensweig. She was so excited that she sold a huge power extension cord. Too bad it was Nadine's and wasn't for sale! Quick! Find the buyer and give him a refund! Moral of story—if it's not moving, it's fair game! ☺

Most Tenacious: Shelley Klein—"just keep selling and get rid of that stuff! Money's money!"

Best director: Renee Shields organized the entire volunteer crew from set up, selling and clean up!

Man with a mission: Arthur Birenbaum was a one-man clean-up crew!

Woman with the biggest burden: Dr. Judy Habet—definitely had to have gotten more money from anyone with any empathy! B'sha'a tova, Judy! ☺

Most bizarre item donated: a small, used and slightly rusty urinal. Anyone want to own up?

This was definitely a huge effort and couldn't have happened without the donations or the tremendous effort by our volunteers. A hearty yasher koach to Renee Shields for coordinating the schedule, to Suzanne Birenbaum, Celia Bernath and Daniel Orner for advertising, to the set-up crew and the clean-up crew who had a massive job, and to all of our sellers:

Karen Adler, Yaffa and Eli Adler, Celia and Sarah Bernath, Arthur and Suzanne Birenbaum, Avrum Brandt, Bressler Family, Nancy Farajun, Judy and Shira Habet, Manuel Kanner, Betty Klein, Shelley Klein, Gita Leibowitz, Shlomo Marmer, Gittel Rosensweig, Esther Rubenstein, Dovi Rubin, Sherman Family, Meira, Shira, Moshe and Renee Shields, Rochelle Socken, Heather Spiegel, Faye Stollon, Leora Walfish, Weber Family, Laya Weitz, and Arlene and Norm Weisbart. Please forgive us for any errors or omissions!

Although this was a labour intensive endeavour, there was wonderful community spirit, humour, and impressive haggling. Above all, we wouldn't have been able to have carried through with the sale were it

not for the generosity and enthusiasm of Rabbi and Rebbetzin Weber. They offered their home, not knowing what was about to transpire in their lives. Even while sitting shiva, the Weber's insisted, "The show must go on". The Rabbi took it in great stride as we stacked huge boxes into his office while he was trying to prepare his shiurim. Rebbetzin Weber was doubly amazing—shlepping merchandise, soliciting donations from stores, and juggling all the other responsibilities with her boundless energy and calm demeanor. ***In total, the Sisterhood raised \$1500.00!***

SISTERHOOD 3RD ANNUAL SALAD SHALOSH SEUDOS

We ended the year on a high with a huge turn out at our final shalosh seudos. Madeline Greenberg graciously hosted and set out a beautiful buffet of the salads prepared by the talented women of our shul. Only the thought-provoking Dvar Torah presented by Clanton Park's very own, Dr. Leiby Warner, topped the wonderful food and conversation. Our Hakaros Hatov was shown to our hard-working committee heads: Rosh Chodesh Committee: Rosy Roth, Chaviva Diena and Alanna Weitzner; Shiva Meals: Freda Farkas and Tziporah Hoffmitz; Bikur Cholim Meals: Shelley Lipson and Naomi Levi; Welcome Baskets: Nurit Ochs; Advertising: Celia Bernath and Suzanne Birenbaum. As this was our 3rd Women's Shalosh Seudos, we hope that Chazak, Chazak, ve'nizchazek...that this will give chizuk to the sisterhood and the general membership of Clanton Park of all the positives we have to offer each other, the shul and klal Israel.

We would like to ask that anybody who prepared a salad for the shalosh seudos to please submit their recipes to Nadine Bressler (84 Almore Avenue) as we plan to compile them into a special book.

Wishing you all a safe, healthy and relaxing summer.

Leah Dina Weber and Nadine Bressler
Co-presidents

YOUTH NEWS

CLANTON PARK BASEBALL LEAGUE



The past six weeks were exciting ones for over 230 children - boys and girls - from many different shuls, who took part in the annual Clanton Park Baseball League. Through rain and shine, the children played joyfully and passionately in Clanton Park, Dublin Heights and Faywood fields, while parents were delighted to see their children's faces shine as they discussed the great times they had each week, the games they played, the old friends they saw, and the new friends they made. Many got to showcase their talents and abilities, and thanks to excellent support from parents and coaches, several were able to discover new talents and abilities, as well.

Fourteen great sponsors made sure that all events were financially provided for. Their names were seen on the shirts of the boys who played on their respective teams: Alku, Leiby Weiss, Paul Tobias, Murray Shore, Satin Finish Flooring, Leaseville, Securely Yours, Richman's Bakery, Hermes Bakery, Joe Boo's Cookoos, Chocolate Charm, Aleph Bet Judaica, Fieldgate Homes, and Franklin Templeton. Much hakaras hatov should be paid to them, the coaches, the parents, and those who undertook the task of organizing the whole league from beginning to end.

The final game was followed by an all-inclusive barbeque banquet where hundreds of children, young and old, players and their families, filed in to the Clanton Park Shul parking lot for hamburgers, hotdogs, trophies, cotton candy, music, raffles, and a magic show.

Baruch Hashem, this spring, boys and girls from over a dozen shuls and schools came together and did what kids know how to do best: have fun. They were the main reason that this year the Clanton Park Baseball League was yet another remarkable success.

Moshe Kopstick

Editor's note: A very special thanks and Yasher Koach to Moshe Kopstick for coordinating the league activities.

GIRLS YOUTH

The girls youth programming has just completed another truly successful and fun year! We wrapped up the year this past Sunday with a fun (and competitive) game of Dodge Ball at Beach Blast. The girls had lots of fun running around in the sand. All the girls had a great time at each of the programs that took place throughout the year. For Mother's Day we got together to make beautiful jewellery boxes and stunning picture frames. The girls then surprised their mothers with their beautiful gifts. Over Pesach we celebrated by creating our own cool bracelets. For Purim we made tzedakah boxes in order for each girl to help fulfill the Mitzvah of Matanot L'evyonim (and then we enjoyed a Purim party with a magician, air brushing, helium balloons and hot dogs!). For Chanukah we played Bingo and made our own falafels. The girls also made funky (and warm) pillows to decorate their beds, wooden pegs to hang their accessories on and cool mirrors for their rooms.

Thank you to all the girls who participated in the programs. Best wishes for a fun and safe summer!

Rebecca Salmon

Editor's note: A very special thanks and Yasher Koach to Rebecca Salmon for coordinating the girls youth activities.

YOUTH NEWS (cont'd)

SHAVUOS ICE CREAM PARTY



The Ice Cream Party on the 1st day of Shavuos was a real success with children of all ages participating. Thanks to all who helped in the preparations, serving and cleanup (Josh Levi, Eli Yafe, Arthur Birenbaum, David Jenah and Zack Rosen).

A special thanks to **Sid and Orna Wellman** for sponsoring the event.

GRADUATES SHABBOS KIDDUSH



The annual Shabbos kiddush honouring the graduates for this year took place on Shabbos, Rosh Chodesh Tammuz, Parshas Korach, June 16th, 2007.

The kiddush was sponsored by the following families (in alphabetical order) :

Dr. Ernie and Susan Greenwald -
son **Elisha** graduated from WITS
Yeshiva High School in Milwaukee.

Wayne and Zeldie Kurtz -
daughter **Rebecca** received her
Hon. BA from York University

David and Cheryl Jenah -
son **Ryan** graduated from Netivot
HaTorah

Rabbi & Mrs. Avraham Kubayov -
daughter **Aderet Ruchama**
graduated from Bais Yaakov High
School

Howard and Chavie Lyons -
son **Jonathan** graduated from Or
Chaim

David & Zeldie Markovic
daughter **Nechama Devora**
graduated from Eitz Chaim

Goel & Soheila Sabeti -
son **Daniel** graduated from York
University - Honours in Psychology
and certificate in Dispute Resolution

Steve and Sara Sherman -
daughter **Elisheva** graduated from
Eitz Chaim

Moshe & Renee Shields -
daughter **Meira** graduated from Eitz
Chaim

Bobby & Sharon Silberstein -
neice **Ita Spitzer** graduated from
Tiferes Bais Yaakov

Murray & Clara Shore -
son **Jonathan** graduated from
George Brown College

Dr. Leiby and Leah Warner -
son **Yair** graduated from Eitz Chaim

Norm & Arlene Weisbart -
son **Simcha** graduated from Darchei
Torah

**Mazel Tov to all the graduates and
their families !**



DVAR TORAH

Are We Religious ?

Professor Paul Socken

The Oxford English Dictionary defines “religious” as “pious”, “devout” or “exhibiting the spiritual or practical effects of religion”. “Pious” comes from the Latin meaning “dutiful”. “Devout” suggests earnest faith. Neither term is terribly helpful in determining if I or someone else is religious. If someone has earnest faith and is in some fashion dutiful, is he religious?

Traditional Judaism follows Jewish law, Halacha. If a person observes Halacha, is he or she religious? On one level, the answer is “Yes”. The answer to the question, “Are you religious”, to Orthodox Jews, would be, “Yes, I’m kosher and shomer Shabbos and shomer mitzvos”. I don’t know if anyone has answered that question by saying, “Yes, I’m honest and caring” or in some other way that is not tied to Halacha.

What about the third OED definition, “exhibiting the spiritual or practical effects of religion”? What are the practical or spiritual effects of religion? Knowledge can be cited as a practical effect of religious training and upbringing. If that is the case, then we can proudly claim that there is a very great deal of knowledge of sources amongst Jews and, in particular, observant Jews. Although that knowledge has become narrowed almost exclusively to Talmud in recent years, there is no doubt that Orthodox Jews are conversant in the basic texts.

Observance would be another practical effect of religious training. Orthodox Jews go to davening, keep kosher and maintain other Halachic obligations dutifully and often even earnestly.

Are conduct and attitude “practical or spiritual effects of religion”? If one is to conduct oneself in a specific way, or to think in a certain manner, what is that? Everyone

knows of Avraham’s “chesed” and Moshe’s humility, to use only two of the best known examples of “midos”, but are these traits ideal models to emulate or religious obligations? Can we be religious without demonstrating “chesed” or being humble?

Are Pirke Avos pieces of wisdom to be studied and meditated on during long summer afternoons or somehow more than that? What exactly does it mean when it says, “Despise not any man and discard not any thing, for there is not a man that has not his hour and there is not any thing that has not its place”? What is a religious Jew supposed to do with this powerful statement?

Yechezkel reports the words of Hashem:

Behold this was the iniquity of thy sister Sedom: she and her daughters had pride, surfeit of bread, and abundance of idleness, and yet she did not strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I removed them when I saw it.

What practical or spiritual effects or obligations does that declaration hold for me and my community? What is the relationship between religion and these evocative and challenging examples and texts? Can Jews be religious without in some way incorporating them into our personal and communal lives? If we need to take them into account, then, how?

I am reminded of Mark Twain’s injunction that “To be good is noble; but to show others how to be good is nobler and no trouble”. It is certainly no trouble to read and discuss Halachic and non-Halachic texts – it is even stimulating – but exactly how is it religious?

It is proudly proclaimed that there are possibly more people studying Jewish

sources today throughout the world than at any time in history. That may well be true, with the institution of Daf Yomi, Artscroll translations of all kinds, and the stunningly successful re-emergence of a vibrant Orthodoxy.

Yet, amidst all of this excellent endeavour, is there any leadership addressing the issue of the meaning of this study for the individual? I do not refer here to “mussar”, for that is important but limited in its appeal and its audience. There is a new, young, sophisticated generation – some from birth, some new or relatively new to serious

Jewish study – growing up in a decadent, secular culture. Most must live a double life, studying and working in contact with the world all the while immersing themselves in traditional Judaism.

Who is telling them how to navigate those difficult waters and what the “spiritual or practical effects of religion” are supposed to be in their everyday lives? Some choose a cloistered life far from the madding crowd – ultra-Orthodox enclaves in America or Israel – but most do not live that life. The rest are left to their own devices to reconcile tradition and modernity. Where is the Jewish leadership to guide, nurture and work in a profoundly engaging and enlightened way with the future of Yiddishkeit?

From the Editor's Desk



Although in the previous newsletter (Shavuot edition) I indicated that the next issue published would be the Rosh Hashana/Succoth issue, I have taken the liberty as editor to publish a special “summer issue”.

The impetus behind this decision was to recognize and report in a **timely** manner, complete with photos, on the tremendous efforts the Sisterhood has expended to successfully undertake the events that have taken place over the past few months. The success of these events was the result of much planning, time, effort and contribution from many volunteers and participants. Yasher Koach to all !

As the newsletter expands in size and content the cost to publish it increases as well. To help offset the publishing costs, members are requested to consider the opportunity of sponsoring future issues of the newsletter in honour or memory of loved ones. Your sponsorship will be acknowledged on the cover page of the newsletter. Sponsorship of shul bulletins/newsletters (whether published weekly or less frequently) is widespread within the community. What better way to start the new year than sponsoring the Rosh Hashana/Succoth issue of the newsletter !

Any suggestions or comments for future issues of the newsletter are welcome ! Articles, Divrei Torah, social announcements, information on special upcoming shul and/or community events, etc. are requested for the Rosh Hashana/Succoth newsletter scheduled to be published the end of August or 1st week in September.

Just a reminder !

Shul members are encouraged to approach any member of the Executive with any ideas, questions, issues or if you have any interest in volunteering to participate on shul committees.

GARAGE SALE

