

# THE CLANTON PARK HERALD

A monthly newsletter, intended to provide timely and pertinent information to shul members

Vol 2, Issue 2, Mar Cheshvan 5765

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

### **THE JOINT COOPERATIVE**

Our *parasha*, as you may well have noticed, has two nadirs; two detailed descriptions of two generations of sinners and of their very different divine punishments. The first generation's sin is spelled out at the beginning of the *parasha*: "For the land is filled with theft" *Bereishis* 6:13. The divine punishment for this generation of theft was the great flood, the flood that destroyed all of civilization, all of humanity, all of creation. This grievous punishment intimates that the sin of thievery is very great; its consequences are catastrophic.

The second generation's sin follows shortly thereafter. "Let us go build a city, and a tower whose top reaches the heavens." *Bereishis* 11:4. The members of this second generation had joined together to create some type of universally accepted idol, building a city, creating a tower that would, metaphorically, reach up and challenge the heavens. This generation also stood poised at the threshold of a religious abyss. Here too, Hashem's response was immediate. "Let us go down and confuse their languages so that one person will not understand another's language (and they cannot complete their ill advised project). And Hashem dispersed them across the face of the whole world and they stopped building..." *Bereishis* 11:7.

In both instances, crime was followed by punishment. It is only the nature and scope of the punishment that varied. Thieves were punished with annihilation; idolaters were punished more benignly with dispersion.

Doesn't this seem off kilter? Isn't idol worship, the disavowal of Hashem, the concomitant disavowal of everything Hashem stands for, the worst of all sins? Isn't idolatry much worse than theft? Why then reserve the more severe punishment for the thieves and the less severe punishment for the idolaters?

The answer can be found in the *Midrash Rabba* 38:6. "The generation of the flood, because they were steeped in thievery... this is why nothing remained of them (they all perished). The generation of the dispersion, because they loved one another (they worked together on a joint project)... they were spared". Yes, the joint

project of a universally accepted idol had an evil directive. Yes, the participants in this project were sinners. But the evil project was a joint cooperative. They were sinning together. And that made all the difference. In the maelstrom of contemporary Jewish community life, the belief that we are all part of a joint cooperative can still make all the difference. We, as a community, have divided and subdivided ourselves into religious factions and into secular factions, into different types of religious factions and into different types of the different types of religious factions. As these factions become smaller and smaller, as they become more and more parochial, they also become less and less aware of the idea of a joint Jewish cooperative. The loss of that joint vision has led to endless, senseless infighting.

And although this latter day parochialization is a worldwide Jewish phenomenon, it is most evident in contemporary Israel. The peculiarities of Israeli life have allowed the different camps to live in relative isolation from one another, with great mental walls serving as immutable dividers. The result is a "dislike of the unlike," a *sinas chinam* that fragments religious and secular Jews, and further fragments the different segments of the religious community.

Residents of *chutz la'aretz*, by and large, live in communities that facilitate greater intracommunal tolerance and sensitivity. In *chutz la'aretz* the different factions at least share some common forums. There are still schools, shuls and community events in which different sections of the population interact. The *chutz la'aretz* spectre of a small Jewish minority within a sometimes frightening non-Jewish majority forces us to pool resources, to share battle strategies, to circle the wagons. *Rabbonim* from *chutz la'aretz*, who work within such milieus, are therefore, on occasion, able to reach out to segments of society that a *rav* in *Eretz Yisrael* might be challenged in reaching. Leaders in *Eretz Yisrael*, both religious and political, are becoming cognizant of the fact that they may be able to learn from the experiences of the *chutz la'aretz* communities. On occasion, Israeli leaders call on their brethren in *chutz la'aretz* for help in crossing the disturbing rubicon of intracommunal fragmentation.

This past spring, I merited joining a group of *Rabbonim* that was brought to *Eretz Yisrael* under the joint auspices of Chasidei Belz,

Chasidei Gur, the Israeli Government and the National Council of Young Israel, for just this purpose. We were there for only three days, but careful planning and minimal sleep allowed for meetings with the Belzer and Gerrer Rebbes, Rabbis Elyashiv and Shteinman, the Ashkenazic, the Sephardic, the Army & a host of municipal Chief Rabbis, President Katzav, Minister of Finance Netanyahu & other Members of Cabinet, MKs & many other religious, political and lay leaders. The objectives of the meetings were many, but prime among them was the hope that new voices from abroad might somehow help the different segments of society realize that much more draws them together than pulls them apart.

Were all issues resolved? Absolutely not. Just knowing, though, that the different segments of society are trying to find a lingua franca with one another, tells me that, perhaps, we are turning the corner. That knowledge, more than anything else, is a cause for optimism. Optimism about the future of *Eretz Yisrael*, optimism about the future of the Jewish people, optimism about the coming of Moshiach, may he come speedily in our days.

### **Mazel Tovs**

*Sponsored by ...*

**ZEMER ORCHESTRA (416) 633-5936**  
"Toronto's Freilich Orchestra!" and....

**WAYNE KURTZ VIDEO PRODUCTIONS**  
**(416) 633-4941 "May we only meet b'simcha"**

Eli and Yaffa Adler, on the engagement of their son, Yona, to Chaya-Leah Rothbart of Detroit.

Mendy and Fay Goldman, on the engagement of their son, Danny, to Tamara Zikherman of Toronto.

Aaron and Bertha Lang, on the engagement of their son, Yehuda, to Esther Bensen of Toronto, and on the birth of a grandson, Yitzchak Aryeh, to their son, Joshua and his wife, Vanessa.

Dr. David and Miriam Rosenthal, on the engagement of their daughter, Shira to Chaim Karpel of West Orange, New Jersey. Mazel tov, as well, to the grandparents, Moshe and Bessie Marmer.

Dr. and Mrs. Allan Seidenfeld, and Marvin and Judy Sigler, on the birth of a grandson, Shaul, to their children, Mordechai and Shayndy. Mazel tov, as well, to the great-grandparents, Arpad and Leah Gartner, and Daniel Rubinstein.

### **Condolences**

Jack Hirshman, on the passing of his father, Joseph Hirshman

### **Bikur Cholim List**

May they all have a speedy *refuah shelaima*.  
In all cases, please phone before visiting.  
For more information, call Irwin Diamond 416-630-2833

Larry Hochman  
Convalescing at: 17 Brett Ave. (416) 633-6590

Baruch Javasky  
Convalescing at: 15 Gladiola Ct. (416) 636-6968

Anshel Lebowitz  
Convalescing at: 1 Gladiola Ct. (416) 636-1141

Mrs. Strolti  
Convalescing at: 66 Danby Ave. (416) 638-3733

Dovid Tward  
Convalescing at: 86 DeQuincy Blvd. (416) 635-8129

Rabbi Irwin Witty  
Convalescing at: 144 Clanton Park Rd (416) 630-9299

### **Shul News and Rules**

*Shalosh Seudos Plaque...* The Levy/Herzig families have generously donated a beautiful plaque, in memory of Dr. Mark Levy, to recognize individuals who would like to sponsor a *Shalosh Suedos* for specific *parashiyos*. Sponsorship can also be done on a perennial basis. See Eli Yaffa, the Shammos, for more details.

*Yasher koach ...* to David Herzig, for all his work in putting up and taking down the shul *sukkah*, which he does every year.

*If you have borrowed seforim...* from the shul library, please return them as soon as possible.

*Attention: Cohanim...* who could not previously attend *hespeidim* in the shul when the body of the mais is present, can now hear the *hespeidim* in the adjoining social hall, thanks to the new broadcast technology that has been donated to the shul by Dr. Allan and Susie Seidenfeld.

*Clanton Park Sisterhood Annual breakfast...*  
October 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 - 11:00 AM. Not to be missed!

### **Website/Email**

*New Year? New leaf?* ... The shul website has a complete list of shiurim given by Rabbi Weber and by other eminent members of the congregation. It's [www.clantonpark.com](http://www.clantonpark.com).

Any other feedback or comments? Our email address is: [bulletin@clantonpark.com](mailto:bulletin@clantonpark.com)

**Give a smile...** Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark: 1. Don't miss the boat. 2. Remember that we are all in the same boat. 3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark. 4.

Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big. 5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done. 6. Build your future on high ground. 7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs. 8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs. 9. When you're stressed, float a while. 10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals. 11. No matter the storm, with emunas Hashem, there's always a rainbow waiting.

## **Youth News**

### **THE GIRLS SUKKAH PROGRAM SCORES A HOLES IN ONE!**

On Chol Hamoed Sukkot, Tuesday, October 5th, the girls in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 met at Clanton Park for their first activity of 5765. The enthusiastic girls loaded up the bus in anticipation of their trip to Putting Edge for a day of indoor glow in the dark mini-golf. The girls split into teams and began their golfing adventure. After putting and glowing for an hour, the group met outside where they enjoyed snacks and drinks before heading back to the shul. Everyone who participated had an amazing time and is looking forward to our next activity. Stay tuned for details of our next program. Special thanks to T-Eids for providing us with bus transportation.

For those girls who wish to be on the email list to find out about upcoming events please send an email to: [cpgirlsyouth@yahoo.ca](mailto:cpgirlsyouth@yahoo.ca)

### **CLANTON PARK BAS MITZVA PROGRAM**

For **girls** in grades 5, 6 & 7, both before or after bas mitzvah. Join Rabbi Weber for a discussion on parents, friendship and life. Free pizza, provided by the shul! This program is open to members and non-members.

**Wed., Nov. 3rd, 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 to 7:00 PM**

If you would like to host this event, please contact Yitzchak Kaplan or e-mail [cpyouth@hotmail.com](mailto:cpyouth@hotmail.com).

### **CLANTON PARK BAR MITZVA PROGRAM**

For **boys** in grades 6, 7 & 8, both before or after bar mitzva. Join Rabbi Weber for a discussion on parents, friendship and life. Free pizza, provided by the shul! This program is open to members and non-members.

**Wed., Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 to 7:00 PM**

If you would like to host this event, please contact Yitzchak Kaplan or e-mail [cpyouth@hotmail.com](mailto:cpyouth@hotmail.com).

### **HIGH SCHOOL & MESIVTA YOUTH SHABBOS MEVORCHIM WITH RABBI WEBER**

This program will restart on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **YOUTH PROGRAM LEADERSHIP**

If you would like to get involved in any of the youth programs, please contact:

**Youth Director** Yitzchok Kaplan

**Hall Decorum Coordination** Zack Rosen  
**Parent Advisors, Tot Program** Judah & Judy Habet, Tovit Rubin, Tonia Samson,  
**Parent Advisors, Boys Grades 1 - 4**  
Michael & Naomi Levi

**Parent Advisors, Girls Grades 1 - 4**  
*TBD*

**Prize Coordinators** Zeev & Chaviva Dienna  
**Prize Distribution** Nancy Farajun, Bronya Levi, Heather Spiegel  
**Ticket Distributor, Men's Section**  
Joshua Levi  
**Ticket Distributor, Women's Section**  
Heather Spiegel

## ***Rabbi Weber's Regular Shi'urim***

### ***Halacha***

Sundays, 9:00AM  
Men's shiur: Hilchos Shabbos

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays  
Fifteen minutes before the second minyan  
Men's shiur: Hilchos Tefilla

### ***Parasha***

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 6:40 AM  
Men's shiur: Weekly parasha

Tuesdays, 6:45AM  
Young Men's shiur: Weekly parasha

Fridays, 8:00 AM  
Men's shiur: Weekly parasha

Mondays, 9:15 PM  
Young Women's shiur: Weekly parasha,  
Restarts October 25th

Tuesdays, 9:30 AM  
Women's shiur: Weekly parasha, Restarts October 26th

### ***Gemara***

Mondays, 7:30 PM  
Young Men's shiur: Gemara

Tuesdays, 6:45 PM  
Men's shiur: Gemara Bava Kama

Tuesdays, 8:15 PM  
Men's shiur: Gemara Chagiga

Shabbos, 7:55AM –  
Men's shiur: Gemara Chullin

Shabbos, 1 hr. before Mincha  
Men's shiur: Gemara Kesubos

### ***Navi***

Tuesdays, 7:25 PM  
Men's Shiur: Sefer Shofetim, Starts October 26th

Mondays, 8:20 PM  
Women's Shiur, Sefer Shofetim, Starts October 25th