

# THE CLANTON PARK HERALD

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

Vol 2, Issue 3, Kislev 5765 website: [www.clantonpark.com](http://www.clantonpark.com) email: [bulletin@clantonpark.com](mailto:bulletin@clantonpark.com)

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

### ***AN INFANTICIDE OF AN INTIFADA***

"Go and learn from what Lavan wanted to do. For while Pharaoh decreed only against the boys, Lavan attempted to uproot everything. As it is written, "an Aramean (Lavan) attempted to destroy my father", Devarim, 26:5.

This thought-provoking quote from the Haggadah is based on a climactic moment in our weekly parasha. Our patriarch, Yaakov, we learn, had spent years as an indentured servant to his father-in-law, Lavan. The debt of servitude had now been paid in full; it was time for Yaakov to move on and to build his own life. And so, Yaakov leaves his father-in-law, Lavan's, home, taking his wives, Lavan's daughters, and his children, Lavan's grandchildren, with him. Lavan, and all that he represents, is left behind. Lavan is livid. Lavan gathers his cohorts and pursues Yaakov.

Rashi, in developing the Sifri 301, sees Lavan's pursuit as a case of pursuit with intent to murder. Rashi's interpretation is based on a literal reading of the passage "An Aramean attempted to destroy my father"; Lavan, enraged by what he perceived as Yaakov's unauthorized departure, was planning to kill his son-in-law Yaakov, his daughters, Leah and Rachel, and all of his grandchildren as well. The leader of the Lavan clan was planning to destroy the progeny of that same clan.

Hard to believe, isn't it? Would any father really consider killing his children, murdering his very own flesh and blood? Is such a thing possible? Are not all children loved and valued by their parents with the utmost intensity? Would any leader lead the society of his followers, that society's children, to the abyss?

The unfortunate answer is, yes, there are parents, there are leaders, that will lead children to the abyss. Yes, there are parents and there are leaders that will abuse, that will destroy, both their children's and their people's concurrent futures.

We have all seen the pictures. Little Palestinian children, rocks and slingshots in hand, have, for a long time, been the foot soldiers in the

Palestinian war of attrition against Israel. Little Palestinian children, for a long time now, have been the human shields behind which the Palestinian snipers hide. Those little Palestinian children have now become recruits for the homicide bombings that define much of the current Palestinian mindset. These children fight and die in battle, yet additional casualties in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

And you ask yourself, how could this be? Why did these children become soldiers? Why did Mr. Arafat and the Palestinian leadership not only allow but, also, encourage this infanticide of an intifada? And yes, these Palestinian children were encouraged to martyr themselves. In school, Palestinian children were shown videos in which they were taught about the holiness of human sacrifice. Groups of Tanzim, the Palestinian militia that espouses martyrdom, visited the schools and exhorted the children to go do battle against the Zionist enemy. Children were even bussed into war zones. Why?

It is all very simple, really. These children died because their leader, Mr. Arafat, benefited immensely from their death. Dead children made excellent snapshots for the media war that paralleled Mr. Arafat's war in the field.

These children had parents, didn't they? The parents must have realized that these children take their lives in their hands every time they enter a war zone. Why did so many parents allow their children to go to the battlefield? Yes, there is pressure on both the children and the parents from all levels of Palestinian society. But would such pressure cause a caring parent to allow his or her children to become human pawns in a madman's game of political chess?

The psyches of far too many Palestinians are warped with hate. That hate has become so visceral that even children are being sacrificed on the manic altar of Palestinian vengeance.

Rashi's statement about Lavan wanting to kill his children suddenly resonates, doesn't it? Yes, hate towards Yaakov could have propelled Lavan towards the murder of his children, of his grandchildren, towards the destruction of his clan, just as the visceral revulsion of Israel allowed Palestinians to forfeit their children in a national orgy of hate.

What, then, does Israel do now? How does Israel deal with the debacle of Arafat's posthumous Palestinian legacy? By recognizing the bitter reality. Israel must acknowledge that the infanticide of the current intifada implies that Arafat's message of hate has permeated the collective Palestinian soul. Israel must acknowledge that although Mr. Arafat has passed from the scene, the ghosts of Lavan-like values, will, for the foreseeable future, continue to define the zeitgeist of the Palestinian masses. Israel must be cognizant that Palestinians who sacrifice their own children, will, if given a chance, do much worse to our children, the children of their enemies.

The danger to our children was made painfully clear to me, back in 2000, when I visited Gilo, a Jerusalem neighborhood of 50,000 people. Gilo, back then, had, because of constant sniper fire from neighbouring Beit Jalla, become a veritable war zone. I remember visiting a children's home and noticing the sandbagged windows of the children's bedrooms. And I remember the memories that coursed through my mind. Memories of the Ma'alot children's home massacre. Memories of the Nahariya beachfront murder in which four year old Einat Haran had her brains bashed out. Memories of so many other demonstrations of seemingly incorrigible, child-directed Palestinian hate. And I remember the realization that emerged from all these memories: those who sacrifice their own children will, undoubtedly, also sacrifice the children of others. No, Israel dare not wish away the bitter reality of a Lavan-like Palestinian mindset.

What, then, do we, in *chutz la'aretz*, do now? We must *daven*. We must *daven* that the current Palestinian leadership is less hateful. We must *daven* that the mindset of the Palestinian street begins to change. We must *daven* that the bitter reality of extant hate is taken into account by Israel's leaders in all of Israel's future dealings with the new Palestinian reality. And we must *daven* for the *Moshiach* who will dissipate all of these problems, 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"**

Drs. Judah and July Habet, on the birth of a daughter, Shayna Perl.

Zack and Yael Rosen, on the bar-mitzvah of their son, Aryeh.

Eli and Yaffa Adler, on the bar-mitzvah of their son, Moshe.

Yossi and Karen Adler, on the bar-mitzvah of their son, Akiva.

Bob and Sharon Silberstein, on the bar-mitzvah of their son, Yair.

Dr. Eli and Judy Magder, on the engagement of their daughter, Chana, to Mark Ross of Toronto.

Dr. Kenny and Reena Greenwald, on the engagement of their daughter, Shayna, to Teddy Kahn of New York City.

Tommy and Linda Sandel, on the wedding of their son.

Paul and Chavi Jacobs, on the birth of a grandson, Avraham, to Lippy and Deborah Jacobs.

### **Condolences**

Sarah Hillel, on the passing of her mother, Dora Drizen.

Rebecca Laiman, on the passing of her brother, Pesach Nadler.

Nurit Ochs, on the passing of her father, Pesach Nadler

Yaakov, Miriam and Yisrael, on the passing of their mother, Bella Feldman.

### **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. Strolin  
Convalescing at: 66 Danby Ave. (416) 638-3733

David 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**

*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Shul ...* This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of our *shul*. In 1954, twenty-eight families each donated a large sum of money to establish a *shul* "north of Wilson" (which at the time was still farmland). There are nine surviving members from the original founders, and we plan to honour them, and their vision and foresight, this year. The current Board of Directors of Clanton Park kicked off the anniversary festivities by generously sponsoring a *kiddush* on Shabbos Toldos. More events are planned, including a gala fund-raising dinner, which is tentatively scheduled for some time in the early spring. Anyone who would like to volunteer to participate in the organization of this event, please contact Moshe Shields.

*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 Seudos* for specific *parashiyos*. Sponsorship can also be done on a perennial basis. *Yasher koach* to all members who have already signed up. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Dedications can also be made in honour of milestone occasions. The costs are: \$75 for challah and herring; \$100 includes egg and tuna salad; \$150 includes beer. Our *Shammes*, Eli Yaffa, will be happy to customize this menu (prices to be determined based on your request). Please note that the minimum contribution for sponsorship is \$75, regardless of how many sponsors there are in any particular week.

*Coats...* As the colder weather arrives, please remember that coats should be hung downstairs in the coatroom. The coat rack on the main floor is meant for elderly and handicapped individuals who find it difficult to walk up and down the stairs. In addition, hanging coats on the stair banisters is unsightly and creates a safety issue. As well, bringing coats into the *davening* area is problematic. Please use the downstairs coatroom. Finally, on the topic of coats, Paul Tobias (416-633-2192) has a very dark green, double-breasted topcoat, size 42 Tall, with a "Made in Canada" label and a zipper for a zip-in lining (that is not in the coat). This coat is very, very similar to his own coat, which someone had mistakenly taken, leaving him with the look-alike. His coat had a longer belt, and gloves, he believes, may have been in the pockets. If you took his coat in error, please call him so that you can switch coats!

*A Shloshim memorial service ...* in memory of Mrs. Bella Feldman, former member for many years, who made aliyah to Israel will be held on

Tuesday, Nov 23 at 8:15 PM in the Meyer Pik Social Hall.

## **YOUTH NEWS**

### **GIRLS ACTIVITY! MEZUZAH MAKING!**

Glass and wire, beads and glue,  
Have we got an exciting project for you!  
For girls in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8.  
Bring all your friends, this is going to be great.  
So hold the date of November twenty-one,  
For an afternoon that is sure to be fun!

*Who?* Girls in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8. (open to members and non-members)

*What?* Mezuzah making

*When?* November 21<sup>st</sup> 2004 at 1 PM.

*Where?* Clanton Park Synagogue,  
11 Lowesmoor Avenue (in the basement)

*Cost?* \$8 for members \$10 for non-members

For more information, call Rebecca Kurtz at (416) 633-3649 or email: [cpgirlsyouth@yahoo.ca](mailto:cpgirlsyouth@yahoo.ca).

### **LATKES**

Kids! Help out in the kitchen this Chanukah!  
Here's an easy latkes recipe that you can do!  
(Adult supervision is recommended.)

5 large potatoes	¼ cup matza meal
1 large onion	½ teaspoon salt
4 eggs	oil for frying

Grate the potatoes and strain in a strainer. Grate onion. Add grated onion to potatoes. Add eggs (not the shells, though). Add matza meal and salt. Mix well with large spoon. Heat oil in frying pan. Then add mixture one tablespoon at a time into oil. When golden brown turn over and brown on other side. Eat with sour cream, yogurt, apple sauce, or as-is. Don't overeat!

### **CHANUKAH QUIZ**

Test your skill with these eight questions (answers are on the next page):

1. Where in the Torah is there an allusion to Chanukah?
2. Why is Chanukah also referred to as "Chanu Kaf-Hay"?
3. If one places his *Chanukiah* by the entrance to his house, which side of the entrance is it placed on?
4. Is a circular *Chanukiah* kosher?

5. Why is full *Hallel* recited on the eight days of Chanukah, and not just on the first day(s) as is done on, say, Pesach?
6. The Greeks were descended from a common ancestor. Who was the "father" of the Greek people?
7. On *Motzaei Shabbos*, is *Havdalah* recited first, or are the Chanukah lights lit first?
8. The eighth day of Chanukah has a special name. What is it, and what does it refer to?

### **Errata**

The editor of *The Clanton Park Herald* apologizes for errors that were made in previous issues. Errors were, of course, unintentional, and we promise not to make any errors in the future, *b'li neder*.

In our last issue we stated that *cohanim* "can now hear the *hespidim* in the adjoining social hall". It should have read: "*Cohanim* ... can hear *hespidim* in the **parking lot**, thanks to the new broadcast technology...."

In our last issue, we congratulated Aaron and Bertha Lang on the engagement of their son Yehuda to Esther Bensen of Toronto. It should have read "Esther Bensen of **Montreal**".

In our last issue, we congratulated Mendy and Fay Goldman on the engagement of their son, Danny, to Tamara Zikherman. The correct spelling of Tamara's last name is **Zicherman**.

In a previous issue, we congratulated Bernie and Yaffa Moskoff on the birth of a daughter. Berne's wife's name is actually **Michal**. (Yaffa is his sister-in-law.)

### **Answers to Chanukah Quiz**

1. In Parashas Emor, the Torah recounts all of the festivals of the year: Shabbos, Pesach, Shavuos, Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur and Sukkos. This is followed by the commandment to maintain an eternal light in the Sanctuary. It has been suggested that the proximity between the two passages anticipates a future day when the kindling of an eternal light would also become a yearly festival. As well, the twenty-fifth word of the torah is or (light). The twenty-fifth place of encampment in the midbar was called Chasmonah. (There are other allusions brought down by the Ramban; space constraints prevent us from listing all of them.)
2. "Chanu" means "they rested" (from their enemies) on Kaf-Hay, the 25<sup>th</sup> (of Kislev). We also "rest" (are not permitted to do work) while the Chanukah lights are burning.
3. On the left side of the entrance, so that the mezuzah is to the right.
4. No. The lights must be in a straight row.
5. According to the Abudraham, each day of Chanukah is considered a new festival in its own right, since we kindle one more light that we kindled the night before. Also, the korbanos in the Beis Hamikdash varied each day.
6. Yavan, who was the fourth son of Yefes, who was the son of Noach, was the "father" of the Greek people.
7. This is a little bit of trick question. The most common tradition is to do Havdalah first, but others have a tradition to light the Chanukah candles. Consult Rabbi Weber, if confused.
8. The last day of Chanukah is called "Zos Chanukah" because of the closing portion of the Torah-reading of that day: "Zos Chanukas hamizbeach...".

#### **Jewish Haiku**

No fins, no flippers,  
the gefilte fish swims with  
some difficulty.