

# THE CLANTON PARK HERALD

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

Vol 2, Issue 4, Teves 5765 website: [www.clantonpark.com](http://www.clantonpark.com) email: [bulletin@clantonpark.com](mailto:bulletin@clantonpark.com)

---

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

### **OUR OWN LITTLE GOSHEN**

Yosef's brothers have finally arrived in Egypt, and Yosef is about to take the next step. Yosef is about to introduce his brothers to Pharaoh. But before that next step, before the introduction, Yosef counsels his brothers: "And you will say [to Pharaoh], 'shepherds, we have always been'...so that you will be settled in the Land of Goshen...since all shepherds are repulsive to Egyptians". Do whatever it is that needs to be done, Yosef seems to be telling his brothers, redefine yourselves professionally, marginalize yourselves socially, make yourselves repulsive, but ensure that you are settled in the land of Goshen. Goshen. That is where Yosef wanted them settled. In Goshen, at a distance from the center of Egyptian existence. And, adds the Ha'eimek Davar, if settling in Goshen necessitates engaging in a profession that causes consternation to the average Egyptian, so be it.

After 22 years in Egypt, Yosef was all too familiar with the dark side of Egyptian life. Yosef knew of the state-sanctioned incestuous relationships. While the prevalence of incestuous marriages among Egyptian commoners is a matter of scholarly debate, the establishment of such relationships among members of the Egyptian royalty as a means of assuring familial succession to the throne, has been, definitively, established as historical fact. Yosef knew of the state-sanctioned promiscuity. In Egypt, the achievement of puberty was cause for religiously mandated premarital liaisons. Yosef knew of the idolatry. Egypt's magical blend of sun, sand and Nile, joined frogs and crocodiles, bulls and dogs, the sun, the sand, and the Nile itself into a pantheon of Egyptian Gods.

Yosef knew all this and he was concerned. He was concerned about the witches' brew of Egyptian decadence, about the possibility of that decadence permeating his brothers, permeating their families, permeating their legacy. He was concerned about the future of Klal Yisrael. But Yosef sought and Yosef found a solution. Goshen. A self-contained little world, part of the Egyptian kingdom and yet apart from the Egyptian kingdom. A retreat, a place where Bnai Yisrael could live and socialize among their own,

surrounded by people who shared the same values, by people who cherish the same dreams. Yes, his brothers were leaving Eretz Yisrael and coming to live in Egypt. Goshen, though, was going to be, for them, an Eretz Yisrael within the Egyptian turpitude.

Yosef's story is our story. The lack of familial respect that reached its nadir in the incest that haunted ancient Egypt, expresses itself in a contemporary world, broad swaths of which are, oblivious to familial responsibilities. Ancient Egypt's sanctioning of promiscuity reinvents itself in the modern media's idealization and idolization of smut. The idols of ancient Egypt are reincarnated in the endless pursuit of career, of position and of prominence. All too many parallels can be drawn between the zeitgeist of ancient Egypt and the zeitgeist of the contemporary Western World.

Yes, we too need a Goshen. We need a retreat, a small parcel of *kedusha*, not just for *davening*, not just for learning, but also for appropriate socialization, a social anchor in the sea of surrounding moral turpitude. A place where we can socialize with people who share our values, where we can bond with people who cherish our dreams. No, we are not in Eretz Yisrael, but our little Goshen, can be our re-creation of Eretz Yisrael within the surrounding moral turpitude.

Yes, we need a Goshen and, thankfully, in our shul, we have it. A shul is, of course, about *davening*, a shul is about learning. But, in a contemporary world of moral decay, a shul is also a Goshen, a place of retreat, a place for appropriate socializing with people who share our values, for bonding with people who cherish our dreams. That is why our shul, and so many other forward-thinking shuls put so much effort into the social component, into the get-togethers, the *kiddushim*; into the events that help create a communal Goshen. No, my friends, do not underestimate these shul get-togethers. It is events like these that help us rise above the decadence that we see all too much of.

## **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"**

Aitan and Shevi Lerner, on the birth of a daughter, Daniella.

Ralph and Vicki Levine, on the birth of a granddaughter, Lea, in New York, to their children Yossi and Malka. Mazel tov, as well, to the great-grandmother, Tina Levine.

Hanoch and Celia Bernath, on the birth of a granddaughter, Chaya Esther, to their children Izzy and Yona Bernath.

Gershon and Faige Kaplan, on the birth of a granddaughter, Miriam, to their children Chaim and Chani. Mazel tov, as well, to the great-grandparents, Sidney and Pearl Woolf.

Gary and Margaret Kopstick, on the birth of a granddaughter, Shira, to their children Yonah and Jaimie. Mazel tov, as well, to the great-grandparents, Percy and Frances Kopstick.

Robert and Roseanne Karoly, on the engagement of their son, Aaron, to Danielle Weiss of Detroit.

Moshe Arye and Adina Milevsky on the birth of a their daughter, Zohar Shoshana.

Sid and Orna Wellman, on the marriage of their daughter, Gila, to Moshe Nussen of Monsey.

George and Betty Jakubovic, on the marriage of their daughter, Shira, to Yaakov Hanover of Brooklyn.

## **Condolences**

Howard Tepperman, on the untimely passing of his mother.

Mr. L. Zimmerman, on the loss of his sister and Mrs. L. Perl on the loss of her sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Ecker

Mrs. Lynda Baron and Mrs. Agnes Schwartzberg on the loss of their mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Ecker

## **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

Noam Edell  
Convalescing at: Hospital for Sick Children

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

Edward Stern  
St. Michaels' Hospital

Agnes Sturm  
Convalescing at: 29 Timberlane. (416) 635-5609

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

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

## **Urgent Refuah Shelaima**

Please say a special tefilla for:

Moshe Boaz ben Yocheved Henna

Chaya Esther Bas Yona Hindel

## **Shul News and Rules**

*Renovations...* The men's bathroom on the lower floor is currently undergoing a total renovation. When completed, it will be a brand new facility, with much improved exhaust and ventilation capacity. During the renovation, congregants are asked to use the other bathrooms in the building, which have been temporarily re-labeled.

*Shalosh Seudos Plaque...* 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.

## Youth News

### POST-CHANUKAH SKATING PARTY

Please join us for an exciting night of pizza and skating...

Where:

*Pizza* - Downstairs in Clanton Park Shul

*Skating* - Chesswood Arena (400 Chesswood Dr.)

*Please note: there will be no transportation to the skating rink.*

When: Motzei Shabbos, **December 18<sup>th</sup> 2004.**

Pizza at 7:15 PM, followed by skating at 8:45 PM.

Who:

Boys - all ages

Girls - up to grade 4

Cost: Only \$5!

For more information, call Yitzchak Kaplan at (416) 738-8032

### SHABBOS M'VORCHIM WITH RABBI WEBER

Boys:

Mesivta and High School boys – Friday night, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lax, 47 York Downs Dr. at 8:00 PM.

Girls:

High School girls- Shabbos afternoon, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Shore, 160 Faywood Blvd. at 3:00 PM

### GIRLS ACTIVITIES

The girls in grades 5,6,7 and 8 ended November with a smashing mezuzah cover making event. Each girl designed and decorated their own test tube with wire and beads to make their very own mezuzah cover. All the girls had tons of fun. Special thanks to Ora Shore for her assistance in the program.

On Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup>, the girls in grades 5 - 8 went trampolining at *Just Bounce* for their pre-Chanukah bash. Everyone had a blast, jumping up and down and learning cool tricks. The girls then enjoyed pizza for lunch and chocolate Chanukah gelt.

The Tu B'Shevat craft project for girls in grades 5 - 8 will be taking place on Motzei Shabbos, January 15<sup>th</sup> 2005.

The Tu B'Shevat craft project for girls in grades 1 - 4 will be taking place Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> 2005.

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

## Asarah b'Teves

Three calamities befell Israel on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of the month. All are remembered on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Teves, which is observed as a public fast day.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of Teves, the Torah was translated into Greek by the decree of King Ptolemy of Egypt. The gemorrah in Megilah describes Ptolemy's plan: " He gathered seventy-two elders, and placed them in seventy-two chambers, each in a separate one, without revealing to them why they were summoned. He entered each one's room and said: 'Write for me the Torah of Moshe, your teacher'. " The intent was to humiliate the elders, and the Torah, by "exposing" conflicting translations, but, miraculously, Hashem "put it in the heart of each one to translate identically as all the others did". The translations of each of the seventy-two were identical; even in a number of places where the Elders intentionally altered the literal translation, the results were identical. This was a kiddush Hashem. Nonetheless, this was seen as tragic day, a day when the kedusha of the Torah was blemished, and "darkness came into the world for three days."

The 9<sup>th</sup> of Teves marks the yahrtzeits of both Ezra and Nehemiah.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of Teves, Nebuchadnezzar began his siege of Yerushalayim. This was the beginning of a terrible period for the Jews, which lasted three years, and ultimately ended in the destruction of the Beis Hamikdash.

Asarah b'Teves falls on Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The fast begins at 6:37 AM and ends at 5:25 PM. Chatzos is at 12:16 PM.

## Errata

The editor of *The Clanton Park Herald* apologizes once again for errors that were made in previous issues. (Actually, once you get to know him, he's really not such a bad guy.)

In our last issue, we extended a mazel tov to Drs. Judah and July Habot. **Judy** Habot is Judah's real wife, and the real mother of their new daughter. July is a month. Although some women have the names of months as their proper names (e.g., April, June), this is not the case with Dr. Judy Habot.

As announced by Gary Kopstick, if you want to ensure that your "milestone" is recognized (and not forgotten or mistakenly announced) in the bulletin, please email the information to [bulletin@clantonpark.com](mailto:bulletin@clantonpark.com) or phone Ken Stollon at 416-493-9560 x 2102.

**FEATURE ARTICLE:  
50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF CLANTON  
PARK SHUL – THE INTERVIEWS –  
PART ONE – Aron and Miriam  
Frankel**

In honour of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the shul, I will be interviewing the surviving founding members of the shul over the coming months. This month, I had the pleasure of interviewing Aron and Miriam Frankel.

Like many of the founding members, Aron and Miriam Frankel are both Holocaust survivors. Aron survived the war hiding in a bunker with his parents. In 1943, the family came out of hiding to celebrate Pesach in the Zloczow ghetto. Aron's father was rounded up with 6,000 other Jews from the ghetto that Pesach, and all were shot. Aron and his mother escaped back to the bunker, and managed to survive the war in hiding. They came to Canada in 1948.

Miriam's family moved from Czechoslovakia to Italy in the 1920s, but when Mussolini came to power, the situation worsened for the Jews, and Miriam's family, along with thousands of other Jews, was expelled in 1940. The family planned to re-settle in England, but made a brief detour to Hungary to visit her grandparents. With the Nazis in control of Hungary, however, they were never allowed to leave. The family was re-settled in the ghetto, and Miriam's father was taken to a forced labour camp. Ultimately, in 1944, the family was deported to Auschwitz. Miriam survived and came to Canada after the war, with a group of war orphans. She lived with the Sokol family.

According to Aron Frankel, the minyan started as a "bachelor minyan" on College Street, with Rabbi Price. A number of the founding members were getting married at the same time, and they all decided to "move north" together.

The shul was officially founded in 1954. There were twenty-eight original families. Each family donated \$1,000 (the equivalent of about \$6,000 in today's dollars) to purchase the land, upon which the shul was built.

Miriam Frankel remembers, that there were only a few scattered houses in the area, no street lights; it was like living "in the boon docks".

The first Rosh Hashana, the minyan rented space in the school building on Almore, the same school building which would -- many years later -- become Or Chaim Yeshiva. By the second Rosh Hashana, the building on Lowesmoor was built. The social hall and kitchen comprised the original shul; the sanctuary was added a few years later. All the members helped to arrange the chairs, and clean up after the services.

Many of the founding members had lost their families in the war, but had found new "families" in the close-knit community that was developing north of Wilson. There was "a good atmosphere and close relationships; in spite of differences, there was a good mix". The minyan was made of individuals from varied backgrounds: Hungarian, German, Polish, British and

even a few native-born Canadians, like Sol Edell, who became the shul's first President, and was perhaps the most influential person in the early growth of the shul.

The shul had many cultural, educational and recreational events. Miriam Frankel recalls playing Esther in the Purim play one year. Eli Munk played Mordechai.

Food was always a theme at the shul. "There were no waitresses or fancy catering," says Miriam Frankel, "but all was done with an open heart". She recalls one of the early Simchas Torah celebrations, where the entire kehilla (about 60 people at the time) was invited to her house. Even the men helped serve the cabbage rolls and kugel.

The shul's first Rabbi was Rabbi Gorelik, who served for only two years. The shul's second rabbi was Rabbi Rabinovitch. According to Aron Frankel, Rabbi Rabinovitch "put the shul on the map". Rabbi Rabinovitch served for twelve years. During that time, he accomplished many things. He joined forces with Rabbi Felder to strengthen the Vaad HaKashrus helped build the mikveh on Sheppard Avenue, and took an active role in many causes.

Both Aron and Miriam had a warm relationship with the Kerzner family, and characterized Rabbi Kerzner, who served the kehilla for over thirty years, as "a wonderful man" who helped the shul grow to what it is now. They also feel that Rabbi Weber has enormous potential to lead the kehilla into the future.

Aron Frankel served as President of the shul and was on the Executive for many years. He prides himself on coming up with the idea of allowing younger people to be on the Executive, and thereby getting them more involved in the shul's activities.

According to Frankel, Clanton Park Shul members have been key players in the growth of the Toronto Jewish community. The Hofstedters founded Ner Israel. The Koschitskys and Frankel himself founded Or Chaim and Ulpana. Many members, including Gershon Kaplan, have been active in Eitz Chaim. Many members are also active in the UJA, and other important Jewish causes. "We are a very charitable minyan," says Frankel.

In addition to their active role in the shul and in the community, Mr. Frankel had a successful career as an accountant, and still works as a business consultant. Mrs. Frankel, who studied commercial art, worked briefly in her field, and also helped her husband with secretarial support as he built his accounting practice. The Frankels raised three children. All the children are married; they have two sons in New York and a daughter in Toronto. They have thirteen grandchildren. In any given year, they have at least one grandchild in Israel.