

THE CLANTON PARK HERALD

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

Vol 2, Issue 6, Adar 1 5765 website: www.clantonpark.com email: bulletin@clantonpark.com

From the Rabbi...

THE COLOURS OF LIFE

This week's *parasha* and three of the four following *parshiyos* portray, in great detail, our *mishkan*'s, our sanctuary's, colour scheme. The colours are listed at the beginning of this week's *parasha*: *u's'chieles vi'argaman vi'sola'as shani vi'shesh*, "And blue (wool) and purple (wool) and red (wool) and white linen." (*Shmos* 25:4)

These colours, the colours that *Ha'Kadosh Baruch Hu* chose for the *mishkan* must each carry its own moral message, must each teach its particular life lesson. Come with me and let us develop, together, Rabbi Shimshon Raphael Hirsch's analysis of how these morals and these lessons can still colour our lives.

Red. What art thou red? Earthiness? Anger? Passion? Blood? All of the above? There is something dangerous, even sinful about the colour red. Indeed, in *Yeshayahu's* depiction (1:18) of the transformation of sin, "*im yih'yu cha'ta'eichem ka'shanim ka'sheleg yalbinu*," "if your sins are red like scarlet wool, they shall become as white as snow," red is symbolic of sin. The *Mishna* in *Shabbos* 86 takes this symbolism to a *halakhic* level by noting that, on *Yom Kippur*, a red string would be attached to the *Yom Kippur Azazel* forgiveness offering. That earthy, bloody string would miraculously whiten upon the community's forgiveness, in a divine expunging of sin.

If such moral symbolism is to be found in colours, then the blue that is reminiscent of the seemingly infinite expanses of sea and sky, can, very well, be meant to lead us towards thoughts of the infinite expanse of *Ha'Kadosh Baruch Hu*. Indeed, the *Gemara* in *Chullin* 89 notes that it is the blue *t'cheiles* in our *tzitzis* that keeps us spiritually focused: *t'cheiles domeh l'yam, yam domeh l'rakiah, rakiah domeh l'kisei ha'kavod*, "blue is like the sea, which is like the sky, which is like *Hashem's* throne." Indeed so many moments and items of greatness are cloaked in blue: the blue gown that the *kohen gadol* wore, the blue cloth that draped the *aron*, the holy ark, during our travels through the desert. So many divine items were made from sapphire: the *luchos*, the tablets that contained the *aseres ha'dibros*, *Moshe Rabbainu's* extraordinary rod,

the stool that *Moshe Rabbainu* saw, prophetically, at *Ha'Kadosh Baruch Hu's* feet. Earthy, angry, bloody red and calm heavenly, blue: two colours, each clearly defined at two opposite ends of the religious spectrum.

How then do we define *argaman*, purple? The *Ra'avad* in *Hilchos Klai Hamikdash* finds the definition for *argaman*, by dividing the word into, what he feels, are its two etymological components, *arag* and *min*. "woven... from (different fibres)." Purple, a mixture of blue and red, of the holy and of the base, might, I believe, accordingly symbolize the spiritual level of a man who is poised somewhere between the terrestrial red and the heavenly blue, the dilemma of man who is headed towards, but hasn't quite reached discernible spirituality. Red, blue and purple, three colours for three different people, all on different levels of *avodas Hashem*, and yet, paradoxically, all of whom are woven into the *mishkan* cloth.

Now, you are probably asking yourself: Shouldn't the holy blues be limiting their contacts with the weaker reds and purples? Shouldn't the spiritually raw red and the only half-developed purple be excluded from something as elevated as the *mishkan*? Shouldn't the *mishkan* be constructed only from items that are at the apex of holiness?

And the answer, of course, is no, no and no again. No, the blue should be disconnected neither from the red nor from the purple. No, spiritually raw people should not be excluded from the *mishkan* enterprise. No, *Ha'Kadosh Baruch Hu* does not want to be accessed only by individuals who are at the apex of holiness. Everyone, even the reds and the purples, even the people who are somewhat removed from traditional observance should be encouraged to participate in the *mishkan*. Isn't that what a *mishkan* is, essentially, all about? Isn't the *mishkan* supposed to bring together all the different groups, to create a forum that allows people to climb from the terrestrial all the way to the sublime, to facilitate an *achdus* that unites the reds, the blues and the purples so that they all come together in *avodas Hashem*? Come together, the Torah beseeches us; weave everyone together in the structure of the *mishkan*. Your *mishkan* will only be lovelier because of it.

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"

Mr. and Mrs. Eli Adler on the marriage of son, Yona, to Chaya-Leah Rothbart of Detroit.

Mr. Motty Kopstick and Mrs. Nili Abrahams, on the engagement of their daughter Sara to Avraham Gal. Mazel tov, as well, to the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Menashe Laiman, and Mr. and Mrs. Percy Kopstick.

Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Edell, on the marriage of their daughter, Chedva, to Aaron Weingarden.

Mr. and Mrs. Ari Braun on the marriage of their daughter Rochel to Yossi Bergman. Mazel tov, as well, to the grandparents, Rabbi and Mrs. Yizchok Kerzner.

Condolences

Dr. Kenny Greenwald, on the passing of his father, Sidney.

Mrs. Rachel Fletcher, on the passing of her sister.

Bikur Cholim

Bikur cholim is a huge *mitzvah*, and the *shul* has a large number of seniors who are in need of a *refuah shleima*. Organized visiting can be arranged through Irwin Diamond, Sara Plonka or Naomi Levi. Teens and college students are urged to participate.

Shul News and Rules

Tzeisechem I'sholom... to Aitan and Shevi Lerner, who are moving to the Lawrence area. Thank you for your years of service to the *shul*.

Yasher koachto Mr. Samuel Miller for his ongoing work in repairing the *shul's seforim*.

Siyum HaShas.... On Tuesday evening, March 1, 2005 at 5:00 PM, the Jewish community around the world will be celebrating the 11th

Siyum HaShas of Daf Yomi. In Toronto, the celebration will take place in the Ricoh Coliseum at Exhibition Place. Clanton Park Synagogue has arranged for reserved seating for all members who would like to attend. Please see Heshy Sturm for details.

RRSPs and Israel Bonds ... The RRSP deadline is March 1st. Most series of Israel Bonds qualify for RRSPs, as foreign content. Currently, the top bond yields 5.8%. Help Israel, and save for your retirement at the same time. For more information, call Morris Sosnovitch.

Purim Shpiel BIG events are planned for Purim this year, including a world-class *Purim Shpiel*, presented by the Downsview Shtick Players. With the help of the members of the *shul*, including women and youth, this year's presentation will be a huge success. The following positions are required to help make this play a fun event for all:

1) Players/actors (sorry ladies, this one is for the guys only). We need the following:

- a) 10 judges
- b) Narrator
- c) King
- d) Servant
- e) Esther (one lucky man will play this role)
- f) Guards x 4
- g) Mordechai
- h) Vashti
- i) Zeresh and Bigson
- j) Servants x 4
- k) Yenta the matchmaker

2) Set designer - This person will use all of his or her artistic ability to create a set design that will dazzle the audience.

3) Props person - Someone who can create props that are effective and easy to use.

4) Technical Support - Lighting, sound, etc.

5) Costumes - A creative individual who has a flare for interesting clothes.

5) Videographer

6) Music - any instruments will do.

Please submit your names on a group basis, or on an individual basis. Contact Irwin Diamond at (416) 716-6407, or Chaim Oliver at (416) 638-8582

Purim Mishloach Manos Tribute Cards ... are available for purchase, at a cost of \$3.00 each. All proceeds will go toward the Clanton Park Youth. Call Aviva Steinman (416) 636-2824 or Nurit Ochs (416) 630-6006.

Purim issue of The Clanton Park Herald... We are looking for humorous submissions for our

next issue of the *shul* bulletin. Tasteful humour is preferred. Give your submissions to Ken Stollon or email to bulletin@clantonpark.com. Youth of all ages (1 to 120) are invited to share their funniest stories, jokes, poems, songs, etc.

Satellite Shiurim (TCN) ... This program is proving to be a huge success. The following live *shiurim* are scheduled for the coming month (a nominal charge will apply to some of the *shiurim*):
Sunday, February 13, 11 AM – Shira Smiles – for women only.

Sunday, February 20, 11 AM – Rabbi Eitan Feiner – men and women are welcome.

Monday evenings, at 8:30 PM, beginning February 14th – for 13 weeks – Shani Taragin (from Israel) -- “Family Purity Law (Taharat Hamispacha): From Sources to Practice” – for women only.

Wednesday, March 2, 9 PM – Rabbi Jacob Schachter -- Part 3 of the “Life of Rashi” series: “Rashi’s Commentary on the Torah: Internal Emphasis and External Considerations” – men and women are welcome.

“**Milestones**” *efficiency*... if you want to ensure that your “milestone” is recognized (and not forgotten or mistakenly announced) in the

bulletin, email the information to bulletin@clantonpark.com or phone Ken Stollon at 416-493-9560 x 2102.

Youth News

The Girls’ Tu B’Shevat program was a huge success! The girls in grades 5 - 8 made their own “potpourri trees” and enjoyed a *melava malka* together. The girls in grades 1 - 4 designed their own flowerpots and even planted their own plants!
Special thanks to Leora Kurtz, Shira Shields and Miriam Klein for volunteering and helping out with the projects.
Thank you to Kosher N’ Natural for donating the snacks and to King Kosher Pizza for the delicious bourekas.

Purim Katan ... Details about our upcoming program, celebrating Purim Katan, will be coming out shortly! It will take place on *Motzei Shabbos*, February 26th for girls in grades 1 - 8.

Baseball fever... The Boys Clanton Park Baseball League is gearing up for another season. See our ad below.....



BASEBALL FEVER 2005

CLANTON PARK BASEBALL
LEAGUE SPONSORED BY: KING KOSHER PIZZA

With the summer fast approaching,
Clanton Park Baseball is back and better than ever.

Register by March 15th and save!



King Kosher Pizza
Bathurst & Wilson
416.633.5678

WHO?

All boys grades SK – 7 (members and non-members)

WHEN?

May & June with each team playing at least once a week. Games take place between 5:30 – 7:30.

COST:

Please see registration form for fees.

WHERE?

Clanton Park, Faywood Field, or Dublin Heights.

WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE?

Team t-shirt as well as a baseball hat. League BBQ with trophy presentation at end of season.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

You can pick up a registration form in the Clanton Park Shul, or at www.clantonpark.com (under Baseball Fever). Drop off with money order at 127 Laurelcrest Avenue BEFORE APRIL 21st!



To volunteer as a parent, coach, or to sponsor a team please contact Yitzchak Kaplan @ 416.738.8032. Hope to see you all there!

**FEATURE ARTICLE:
50th ANNIVERSARY OF CLANTON
PARK SHUL – THE INTERVIEWS –
Leo and Hanna Weil**

In honour of the 50th 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 Leo and Hanna Weil.

Leo Weil was born in Berlin, and grew up in Cologne. In 1938, he was sent to live with his Uncle and Aunt in London, England. He lived with them until 1946. After the war, he was reunited with his mother and brother, who had been in hiding in Belgium during the war years. Leo's father had been rounded up on the street in Belgium, and sent to Auschwitz Birkenau; that was the last the family heard from him.

Hanna Weil was born in Frankfurt. Her family also left Germany in 1938, relocating first to Holland, and then to England. Her family ultimately settled in the Gateshead community, perhaps the strongest Jewish community in England, and the home to an important yeshiva.

Leo and Hanna were married in London, and lived in England for the early years of their married life. Leo worked as a pastry chef, and gained a reputation for his baking skills.

In 1954, the young couple decided to move to Canada. Hanna's sister, Greta, had married Eli Munk, and they had settled in Canada a number of years earlier. According to Leo, Canada was "an up and coming country" in the 50's and they "expected to find like-minded people there". The underlying motive for their move, though, was to bring the two sisters together. They have had, and continue to have, a very close relationship, throughout their lives.

In Canada, Leo started a successful business in dental supplies. As he puts it: "The first part of my life, as a pastry chef, I spoiled people's teeth. The second part of my life, I did *tshuva*, by selling dental supplies."

Hanna worked for many years in the Hebrew School office at Holy Blossom Temple, and, later, helped Leo with his growing business. She has also been an aerobics and aquatics instructor at the BJC for over twenty years, and still holds regular classes, even at what some might consider "retirement age".

They speak glowingly of the early years of the *minyan*, beginning as a *shteibel* in Mr. Oselky's Edinburgh shul, then moving to the basement of

Sam Kideckel, and ultimately building their own shul on Lowesmoor. "There was certainly an emotional aspect to being there at the birth of a shul," recalls Leo. "One of our members actually fell on the floor and kissed the floor that first *Shabbos*. Our love for the *shul* was very pronounced."

The problems that the *shul* faced back then are problems that persist to this day. For example, the challenge of creating a warm environment for new members and guests, or the enduring problem of talking during *davening*. At one point, Leo remembers, tickets (resembling traffic tickets) were given out to "offenders" who talked during the *davening*. The idea was somewhat effective, but short-lived.

Zionism has always been an important value for the Weils. They bought an apartment in Jerusalem over twenty-five years ago, and usually go there for the major Jewish holidays. Leo served as President of Clanton Park Synagogue, in the 80's, but he voluntarily stepped down after only one year of his term because "he was spending all of the important days of the year in Israel" and did not want to be an "absentee President". Nonetheless, both of the Weils have been quite active in the *shul* in many areas.

A number of Clanton Park members have made *aliyah* over the years, among them, Dr. Leo Wolfson, Dr. Norman Shaul z"l, Mr. Korzen, Rabbi Gorelik, and perhaps most significantly for the Weils, Eli and Greta Munk. Just as the Weils, in a sense, followed the Munks to Canada, they are now going to be following them to Israel. Leo and Hanna will be making *aliyah* this summer.

They will be taking with them fond memories of the *shul* they helped to found. "We took pride in being part of a newly established, growing organization," says Leo, in summary. "We did not only build a *shul*, but we created a solid Orthodox Jewish community, for generations to come."