

# REGO PARK JEWISH CENTER BULLETIN

*"And let them make for me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them."*  
EXODUS 25:8

VOLUME 77 NO. 5

TEVET / SHEVAT / ADAR 5777

JAN. / FEB. 2017

## CELEBRATE TU B'SHEVAT

THE BIRTHDAY OF THE TREES AND FRUIT DELIGHTS

FESTIVE LUNCHEON AND SPEAKER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2017 AT 12:30 P.M.

Presenting

**THE MIRACLES OF THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND**

Featuring

**JERI SHATZ**



Building a prosperous future for Israel and its people  
Community building in the North and South  
Forestry and Greenery - over 240 million planted  
Protected by fire fighting & fire prevention - soil conservation  
Water Solutions - JNF the forefront in water managing  
So much more in research, Zionist education, disability needs



Come bring your friends for a wonderful delicious dessert,  
& chicken luncheon and interesting speaker

**Please reserve by February 8<sup>th</sup> - \$18**

## REGO PARK JEWISH CENTER

97-30 Queens Boulevard, Rego Park, NY 11374  
Telephone: (718) 459-1000 Fax: (718) 459-0431  
Website: www.rpjc.org

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Josiah Derby, M.A\*.....Rabbi Emeritus

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Rabbi Romiel Daniel

### **Men's Club President**

Jack Alkana

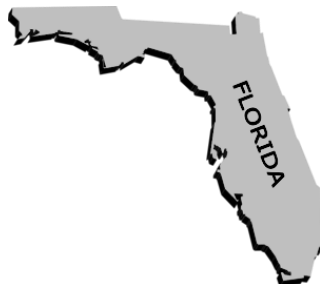
### **Yiddish Vinkel President**

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### **Special Events Group**

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### ***SPENDING THE WINTER IN FLORIDA?***



***PLEASE NOTIFY  
THE CENTER OFFICE***

### ***FACEBOOK***



Did you know that Rego Park Jewish Center has a Facebook page? Find us on Facebook and click LIKE on the cover photo at the top of the page. Go to:

[www.facebook.com/RegoParkJewishCenter](http://www.facebook.com/RegoParkJewishCenter)

**The Rego Park Jewish Center Bulletin is published 9 times/year (Sept. - June)**

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# FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

**Each month of the Jewish year has a corresponding color, a letter of the Hebrew alphabet, a zodiac sign, one of the twelve tribes of Israel, a sense, and a controlling organ/limb of the body.**

Shvat is the eleventh of the twelve months of the Jewish calendar.

The 15th day of Shevat—Tu Beeshvat—is the “New Year of Trees” according to the school of Hillel; according to the school of Shamai, the “New Year of Trees” is the first of Shevat. The “New Year of Trees” is the day from which the new year is reckoned for the fruit of the trees with regard to the mitzvot of ma’aser (“tithes”; fruit that blossoms after this date may not be taken as a tithe with fruit that blossomed before) and orlah (the fruit of a tree less than three years old is called orlah, and is forbidden to eat). Tu Beeshvat is celebrated by partaking of fruit, especially of the seven species with which the land of Israel is blessed.

The New Year of Trees of the month of Shevat is the time that the rain waters of the winter months begin to ascend in the veins of the tree and bring it new life. The ascent of water in general is represented by the “pail” (קַיִי), which in Hebrew steams from the root meaning “to lift up,” as in the verse “my eyes are lifted up to heaven” (Isaiah 38:14). The letter of the previous month, Tevet, is the ayin (ע), which literally means “an eye.” When the ayin of Tevet is lifted up to connect with the tzadik of Shevat, the word “tree” (עֵץ) is formed.

The Ba'al Shem Tov said that when one meets a water-carrier carrying pitchers full of water, it is a sign of blessing. The tzadik is considered the true manifestation of a water carrier.

“‘Water’ refers to Torah.” The month of Shevat is referred to as the new year for the study of Torah. The eating of the fruits of Shevat corresponds to the partaking of and integration of the sweet fruits of Torah wisdom. And so the waters of Shevat represent the sweet waters of Torah.

Tribe: Asher

The name “Asher” (אֲשֵׁר) means “pleasure” and “happiness.” Our father Jacob blessed his son Asher: “from Asher comes delicious [lit. fat] bread, and he shall provide the delicacies of the king” (Genesis 49:20). From this it is evident that Asher represents the sense of taste and eating.

The special tree which Asher personifies is the olive tree, which gives the goodly oil with which Asher’s portion in the land of Israel was blessed. Of the seven species of the land of Israel, the olive is the sixth, which, in Kabbalah, corresponds to the sefirah of foundation, and to the tzadik who is described in the Bible as, “tzadik, foundation of the world” (Proverbs 10:25). Olive oil represents the potent seed of the tzadik to bear and sustain blessed generations of Jewish souls.

Sense: eating, taste

The rectified sense of eating is the special sense of the tzadik, as is said: “The tzadik eats to satisfy his soul” (Proverbs 13:25). This verse continues: “but the stomach of the wicked is always lacking.” The soul-oriented tzadik feels “full” and happy with a little; the body-oriented wicked person never feels content.

Eating from the Tree of Life, the tzadik derives great pleasure (“life” in Torah means “pleasure”) from the Divine sparks of light and lifeforce present within the food he eats. In his rectified state of consciousness he is continuously aware that “not on the [physical dimension of] bread alone does man live, but on each utterance of the mouth of God does man live.”

The time of greatest pleasure in partaking of food is on the day of Shabbat. The word for “to satisfy [his soul]” (שָׂבַע) is cognate to the word for “seven” (שֶׁבַע), alluding to the seventh day of Shabbat. A true tzadik experiences the pleasure of Shabbat the entire week (in the Zohar, the tzadik is called Shabbat). The word Shevat itself transforms to Shabbat (since the two letters tet and tav, both letters of the tongue, are phonetically interchangeable)

## **Fast Facts**

Shevat comes at the same time as the secular months January/February. Days begin to grow longer, and the sun shines a bit brighter. In Israel, spring begins in Shevat. Deep underground, the roots of trees slowly wind their way towards water. High

*Continued on page 4*

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### ***From the Rabbi's Desk - continued from page 3***

above our heads, branches stretch toward the brightening sun.

In Israel almond trees begin to blossom in Shevat. Because they are the first to bloom each Shevat and the nut resembles an eye, an almond tree is called shaked (watcher). Almond trees are said to "keep watch" for spring.

The mazal (constellation) for Shevat is Aquarius, d'li (a vessel filled with water). Miriam (Moses and Aaron's older sister) was also associated with a vessel of water. Legend teaches that because of her righteousness, Miriam was followed by a mysterious well that sustained the Israelites during the years of the desert wandering. The well, filled with the waters of Creation, is still with us today.

In Shevat Jews take special care to fulfill our obligation to protect and preserve the environment.

#### **Features**

Shabbat Shira (The Sabbath of Song) falls on the Shabbat in Shevat when we read the Torah portion B'shalach (Exodus 13:17-17:16), which contains Shirat HaYam (The Song of the Sea). Moses sang this song after crossing the Reed Sea. Afterwards, Miriam led the women in singing their own Shirat HaYam as they danced and played tambourines to celebrate their freedom. The haftarah for Shabbat Shira (See "Festivites") is the story of the wise judge Deborah (Judges 4:4-5:31) and the heroic woman Yael.

#### **Shabbat Shira Customs**

In recent years many women have written English songs about Miriam and her song. Today, many communities celebrate Shabbat Shira with concerts, sing-ins, or extra singing during Shabbat services.

Tu B'Shevat (literally, "the 15th of Shevat") comes at the same time as the full moon and marks the New Year for the Trees. During Temple times, Tu B'Shevat was something like an ancient tax day. Any fruit that ripened before the 15th of Shevat was taxed as the last year's crop; anything that ripened after the 15th counted as next year's crop. These taxes, more accurately called tithes, went toward maintaining the Temple.

#### **Tu B'Shevat Customs**

Holding a **Tu B'Shevat Seder**. In the sixteenth century, the mystics of Sefat (a town in Northern Israel) became interested in Tu B'Shevat as a way to celebrate nature. They created a Tu B'Shevat seder and made up of prayers that enhance our appreciation for trees and fruits. The seder is modeled on the Passover seder and involves drinking four cups of wine and eating up to fifteen different fruits! Today there are many beautiful and creative Tu B'Shevat seders available in print.

**Planting Trees.** In the late nineteenth century, the growing Jewish settlements in Palestine found planting trees to be a crucial part of restoring the land. From that time until today, Jews all over the world collect money for planting trees in Israel.

**Enhancing awareness** about and protection of the environment. On Tu B'Shevat we should make an extra effort to learn about important environmental issues and recommit ourselves to protecting and nurturing our world.

**Contemplating "The Tree of Life."** The Torah is often referred to as Etz Chaim, "The Tree of Life." What does this metaphor mean to you?

Etz chaim he lamachazikim bah vetomcheha me'ushar  
Deracheha darchey no'am vechol netivoteha shalom  
From Proverbs 3:17-18

It is a Tree of Life to those that hold fast to it  
And whoever holds onto it is happy.  
Its ways are pleasant  
And all its paths are peaceful.

#### **Fabulous Females**

#### **Torah, Women, and Trees**

Esther in Hebrew is Hadas meaning myrtle, and Tamar (the name of Judah's wife (Genesis 38), King David's daughter (2 Samuel 13),

*Continued on page 5*

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*From the Rabbi's Desk - continued from page 4*

and Absalom's daughter (2 Samuel 14)) means date palm tree. The judge Deborah heard cases while sitting under tamar Devorah, Deborah's date palm tree. The alon bachut, "the weeping tree," stands where Rebecca's nurse, another woman named Deborah, died. Adelman also points out that Etz Chaim He (The Tree of Life) is an important feminine symbol in Judaism. Women bear offspring, as the Torah bears wisdom, and trees bear fruit. A woman's children are often referred to as the "fruit of her womb." In Shevat we recognize the fabulous female connection to the life-giving cycles of nature.

The haftarah for Shabbat Shira (See "Festivites") is the story of the wise judge Deborah (Judges 4:4-5:31) and the heroic woman Yael. It was selected because Miriam and Deborah both sang songs in celebration of God's miracles. These two women's poems, scholars tell us, are among the oldest parts of the Hebrew Bible.

Deborah, one of the Women of Light we read about in Kislev, is the only female judge named in the Torah. She was wise and fair. Deborah sat under her date palm tree and decided cases for the Israelites. Once Deborah, who was also called a prophet, urged the Israelites into battle, informing them that God had commanded it and would see to it that they would come out victorious "by the hand of a woman." When the battle was indeed won, Deborah sang a victory song.

Deborah inspires us to act fairly, cultivate wisdom, and pursue justice. Deborah's success as a judge--an occupation that in her day was dominated by men--reminds us that women can do anything.

Yael was instrumental in the Israelites' obtaining the victory that Deborah had prophesied. When she encountered the enemy king, Yael invited him into her tent. She fed him milk to make him drowsy. When he fell asleep, Yael made sure he would never wake again by driving a tent peg through his temple.

Yael, like Judith of Kislev, inspires our praise for her show of courage in a situation of great danger. At the same time, her rather gruesome story reminds us of the evils of battle and should motivate us to do all we can to rid the world of war.

### **Foods**

The Tu B'Shevat Seder is filled with delicious and healthy fruits. Why not enjoy them throughout the month?

#### **In the Tu B'Shevat seder, fruits are divided into three groups:**

**Fruits with insides we can eat and outsides that we can't eat.** Some examples are bananas, pomegranates, almonds, and oranges.

**Fruits with outsides we can eat and pits inside, which we can't eat.** Some examples are olives, dates, cherries, and avocados.

**Fruits that we can eat inside and out.** Some examples are grapes, figs, and carobs.

Each of these groups can be thought of as different types of people or different moods we might experience. Some people, for example, have a hard, tough shell but are soft-hearted; other people can seem to be very easy-going but they have a lot of inner resolve and conviction. Try thinking about these distinctions and see what you come up with. You can also invent distinctions of your own.

Red and white grape juices are also important parts of the Tu B'Shevat seder. At the seder, white juice or wine is served as the first cup, symbolizing winter, when seeds are still dormant. Next comes white wine or juice with a dash of red, symbolizing spring and hinting at the seeds' reawakening and the coming of colorful flowers. The third cup is filled with red wine or juice with a dash of white, symbolizing summer when fruits and vegetables grow freely, and we are reminded of the richness of life. Last comes a cup full of red wine or juice, symbolizing autumn, when we celebrate fully the fruits of the harvest season. This is a good month to drink juices and appreciate how delicious and healthful fruits are.

*Rabbi Romiel Daniel*

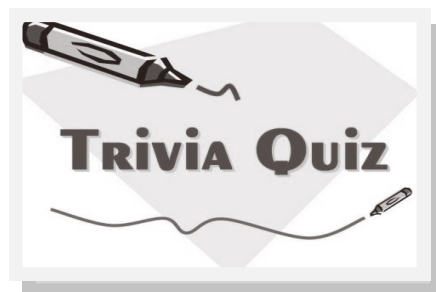
***SISTERHOOD***  
***INVITES PAID UP MEMBERS***  
***TO A FUN FILLED AFTERNOON***

**REFRESHMENTS & TRIVIA  
QUIZ**

**DATE:**      **January 15, 2017**

**TIME:**      **11:30 A.M.**

**ADMISSION: PAID SISTERHOOD DUES**



**Ruth Loewenstein**  
**President**

**V.P. Membership - Elaine Spodick**  
**V.P. Program & Culture - Agnes Posner**



P'RI YADEHAH

# FOCUS ON SISTERHOOD



***“Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” (Leviticus)***

***“Have we not one Father? Has not one G-d created us? (Malakhi)***

***Since all human beings are traced back to one person, they must necessarily be brothers.”***

***(Rabbi Ben Azzai)***

***“Am I my brother’s keeper?” (Cain in Bereshit)***

***“Whatever is hateful unto thee, do it not unto thy fellow man.” (Rabbi Hillel)***

These passages come to mind as we begin to celebrate Sisterhood & Brotherhood months in January/February. The teachings of Judaism remind us and instruct us with these precepts. However, so very often in these turbulent days, mankind as well as the whole world seems to forget and ignore these teachings. Have we all forgotten that G-d created us in His image? Please allow these and the other teachings and commentaries of our sages to help us to grapple with all the horrific issues confronting us - let them and the teachings that we find in the Talmud, as well as other holy writings give us some explanations, understandings, comprehension, as well as a little peace of mind. And then let us look forward to celebrating Women’s League Shabbat on January 21st. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Shabbat Shira on the same Shabbat as Tu B’Shevat - February 11th. On Tu B’Shevat - that joyous Shabbat, we know and we feel that Spring has arrived not only in Israel but also here. Finally we observe the secular observances of our wonderful country - the birthdays of our first and our sixteenth Presidents. As we remember these great leaders, let us now dwell or anguish on the outcome of the November events - but put our faith with and in G-d who will continue to help us remain as “one nation indivisible with liberty and justice for all.”

On Sunday, January 15th, we shall launch the secular year with the Sisterhood Paid-Up Membership meeting at 11:30 A.M. Elaine Spodick, our Membership Vice President, has been busy making sure that we are all dues paying members of Sisterhood. Your ticket of admission is the payment of \$25.00 dues to Sisterhood and with this you will receive many benefits, as well be a part of a world wide Jewish Conservative women’s organization that stands for education, advocacy and preserving and promoting the ideals of Conservative Judaism. There is nothing else like Sisterhood in our Center - we have a lot to offer to you. Sisterhood is a state of mind; it is happiness, a glow from within, a

happening - it is a way of life, and it is education, it is ideals and has many faceted purposes. Please, join us and be an integral part of the Rego Park Jewish Center Sisterhood so that you may reap all its benefits.

Monday, February 6th we shall have our annual card/fun afternoon at 12:15 P.M. Bring a game, a book or just “schmooze” with each other. Bring a dairy sandwich or yogurt and we’ll provide coffee and cake.

Hold the date - Sunday, February 12, 2017 at 2:30 P.M. It’s our famous “Bingo” time. Before the game we shall serve you pizza, salad & a yummy dessert. Then we shall play our famous favorite “Mamma Loschen” game. Of course our own Mildred Pelton will lead and direct us through the intricacies of the game. There will be prizes galore and you will be spending an afternoon in good companionship and a warm atmosphere. Watch the mail and make your reservation. Don’t miss this!

We were very fortunate to have Dr. Rita Harper talk to us at our December meeting. We thank her for the tremendous amount of information that she gave us. Some ladies may have felt that they were not susceptible to certain ailments but if you listened carefully to Dr. Harper we learned otherwise and the information for prevention was priceless. Dr. Harper, thank you! We hope to have Dr. Harper with us again but the next time this talented lady will give us a completely different presentation.

A very speedy and complete recovery to Rachel Kacenenbogen and to all of you who are ill or are in pain, we hope that as the weather gets better, you also will get better and we shall see you again in our midst.

Shalom V’L’Hitra’ot  
Ruth Loewenstein

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**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2017 AT 2:30 P.M.**



**JOIN US AND PLAY**  
***OY VEY BINGO!***



***HAVE FUN AND BE WITH FRIENDS!***

***FARGENEENEN!***

***PIZZA.....AND PRIZES GALORE!***

***ALL ARE WELCOME!***

***\$12 DONATION TO SISTERHOOD***

***MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 10TH, 2017***

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **How Many?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADVISE IF YOU NEED SUGAR FREE**

**Make \$12 Check Payable to Sisterhood**  
**\$14 Donation at Door**





# January 2017

## TEVET / SHEVAT 5777

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1</b>     <i>TEVET 3</i></p> <p>M.S. 8:45 A.M. N.E.S.</p> <p><b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b></p>	<p><b>2</b>     <i>TEVET 4</i></p> <p>M.S. 8:45 A.M. N.E.S.</p> <p><b>NEW YEAR'S DAY (OBSERVED)</b></p>	<p><b>3</b>     <i>TEVET 5</i></p> <p>N.M.S. E.S. 6:15 P.M.</p>	<p><b>4</b>     <i>TEVET 6</i></p> <p>N.M.S. Y.V. 1:30 P.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M. R.C. 6:45 P.M.</p>	<p><b>5</b>     <i>TEVET 7</i></p> <p>M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.</p>	<p><b>6</b>     <i>TEVET 8</i></p> <p>N.M.S. E.S. 4:30 P.M. C.L. 4:26 P.M.</p>	<p><b>7</b>     <i>TEVET 9</i></p> <p>M.S. 9:00 A.M. B.B. E.S. 4:30 P.M. S.E. 5:30 P.M.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"VAYIGASH"</i></p>
<p><b>8</b>     <i>TEVET 10</i></p> <p>M.S. 8:45 A.M. B.C.L.I. 9:30 A.M. S.D. 2:00 P.M. N.E.S.</p>	<p><b>9</b>     <i>TEVET 11</i></p> <p>M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.</p>	<p><b>10</b>     <i>TEVET 12</i></p> <p>N.M.S. E.S. 6:15 P.M.</p>	<p><b>11</b>     <i>TEVET 13</i></p> <p>N.M.S. Y.V. 1:30 P.M. B.D. 3:00 P.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M. R.C. 6:45 P.M.</p>	<p><b>12</b>     <i>TEVET 14</i></p> <p>M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.</p>	<p><b>13</b>     <i>TEVET 15</i></p> <p>N.M.S. E.S. 4:45 P.M. C.L. 4:33 P.M.</p>	<p><b>14</b>     <i>TEVET 16</i></p> <p>M.S. 9:00 A.M. E.S. 4:45 P.M. S.E. 5:37 P.M.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"VAYECHI"</i></p>
<p><b>15</b>     <i>TEVET 17</i></p> <p>M.S. 8:45 A.M. B.C.L.I. 9:30 A.M. SIST. PAID UP MEMB.-11:30 AM N.E.S.</p>	<p><b>16</b>     <i>TEVET 18</i></p> <p>M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.</p>	<p><b>17</b>     <i>TEVET 19</i></p> <p>N.M.S. E.S. 6:15 P.M.</p>	<p><b>18</b>     <i>TEVET 20</i></p> <p>N.M.S. Y.V. 1:30 P.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M. R.C. 6:45 P.M.</p>	<p><b>19</b>     <i>TEVET 21</i></p> <p>M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.</p>	<p><b>20</b>     <i>TEVET 22</i></p> <p>N.M.S. E.S. 4:45 P.M. C.L. 4:41 P.M.</p>	<p><b>21</b>     <i>TEVET 23</i></p> <p>M.S. 9:00 A.M. RONNIE ALWEISS BAR MITZVAH E.S. 4:45 P.M. S.E. 5:44 P.M.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"SHEMOT"</i></p>
<p><b>22</b>     <i>TEVET 24</i></p> <p>M.S. 8:45 A.M. B.C.L.I. 9:30 A.M. N.E.S.</p>	<p><b>23</b>     <i>TEVET 25</i></p> <p>M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.</p>	<p><b>24</b>     <i>TEVET 26</i></p> <p>N.M.S. E.S. 6:15 P.M.</p>	<p><b>25</b>     <i>TEVET 27</i></p> <p>N.M.S. Y.V. 1:30 P.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M. R.C. 6:45 P.M.</p>	<p><b>26</b>     <i>TEVET 28</i></p> <p>M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.</p>	<p><b>27</b>     <i>TEVET 29</i></p> <p>N.M.S. E.S. 5:00 P.M. C.L. 4:50 P.M.</p>	<p><b>28</b>     <i>SHEVAT 1</i></p> <p>M.S. 9:00 A.M. P.C. 12:30 P.M. E.S. 5:00 P.M. S.E. 5:52 P.M.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"VAERA"</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">ROSH CHODESH</div>
<p><b>29</b>     <i>SHEVAT 2</i></p> <p>M.S. 8:45 A.M. B.C.L.I. 9:30 A.M. N.E.S.</p>	<p><b>30</b>     <i>SHEVAT 3</i></p> <p>M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.</p>	<p><b>31</b>     <i>SHEVAT 4</i></p> <p>N.M.S. E.S. 6:15 P.M.</p>	<p>B.B. = BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS                      N.M.S. = NO MORNING SERVICE            B.C.L.I. = BREAKFAST CLUB LEARN IN        P.C. = PARASHAT CLUB            B.D. = BOOK DISCUSSION                      R.C. = RABBI'S CLASS            C.L. = CANDLE LIGHTING                      S.D. = SINGLES DANCE            E.S. = EVENING SERVICE                      SIST. = SISTERHOOD            M.S. = MORNING SERVICE                      S.E. = SHABBAT ENDS            N.E.S. = NO EVENING SERVICE                Y.V. = YIDDISH VINKEL</p>			

# February 2017

## SHEVAT / ADAR 5777

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> SHEVAT 5 N.M.S. Y.V. 1:30 P.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M. R.C. 6:45 P.M.	<b>2</b> SHEVAT 6 M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	<b>3</b> SHEVAT 7 N.M.S. E.S. 5:00 P.M. C.L. 4:58 P.M.	<b>4</b> SHEVAT 8 M.S. 9:00 A.M. B.B. E.S. 5:00 P.M. S.E. 6:00 P.M.  "BO"
<b>5</b> SHEVAT 9 M.S. 8:45 A.M. B.C.L.I. 9:30 A.M. S.D. 2:00 P.M. N.E.S.	<b>6</b> SHEVAT 10 M.S. 7:00 A.M. SIST. 12:15 P.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	<b>7</b> SHEVAT 11 N.M.S. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	<b>8</b> SHEVAT 12 N.M.S. Y.V. 1:30 P.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M. R.C. 6:45 P.M.	<b>9</b> SHEVAT 13 M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	<b>10</b> SHEVAT 14 N.M.S. E.S. 5:15 P.M. C.L. 5:07 P.M.	<b>11</b> SHEVAT 15 M.S. 9:00 A.M. LUNCHEON E.S. 5:15 P.M. S.E. 6:08 P.M.  "BESHALACH" TU B'SHEVAT
<b>12</b> SHEVAT 16 M.S. 8:45 A.M. B.C.L.I. 9:30 A.M. SIST. OY VEY BINGO N.E.S.	<b>13</b> SHEVAT 17 M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	<b>14</b> SHEVAT 18 N.M.S. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	<b>15</b> SHEVAT 19 N.M.S. Y.V. 1:30 P.M. B.D. 3:00 P.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M. R.C. 6:45 P.M.	<b>16</b> SHEVAT 20 M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	<b>17</b> SHEVAT 21 N.M.S. E.S. 5:30 P.M. C.L. 5:15 P.M.	<b>18</b> SHEVAT 22 M.S. 9:00 A.M. P.C. 12:30 P.M. E.S. 5:15 P.M. S.E. 6:16 P.M.  "YITRO"
<b>19</b> SHEVAT 23 M.S. 8:45 A.M. B.C.L.I. 9:30 A.M. N.E.S.	<b>20</b> SHEVAT 24 M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	<b>21</b> SHEVAT 25 N.M.S. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	<b>22</b> SHEVAT 26 N.M.S. Y.V. 1:30 P.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M. R.C. 6:45 P.M.	<b>23</b> SHEVAT 27 M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	<b>24</b> SHEVAT 28 N.M.S. E.S. 5:30 P.M. C.L. 5:24 P.M.	<b>25</b> SHEVAT 29 M.S. 9:00 A.M. E.S. 5:30 P.M. S.E. 6:24 P.M.  "MISHPATIM"
<b>26</b> SHEVAT 30 M.S. 8:45 A.M. B.C.L.I. 9:30 A.M. N.E.S.	<b>27</b> ADAR 1 M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	<b>28</b> ADAR 2 N.M.S. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	<p>B.B. = BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS            B.C.L.I. = BREAKFAST CLUB LEARN IN            B.D. = BOOK DISCUSSION            C.L. = CANDLE LIGHTING            E.S. = EVENING SERVICE            M.S. = MORNING SERVICE            N.E.S. = NO EVENING SERVICE</p> <p>N.M.S. = NO MORNING SERVICE            P.C. = PARASHAT CLUB            R.C. = RABBI'S CLASS            S.D. = SINGLES DANCE            SIST. = SISTERHOOD            S.E. = SHABBAT ENDS            Y.V. = YIDDISH VINKEL</p>			
ROSH CHODESH						

## **BAR MITZVAH**

**Ronnie Alweiss**, son of Linda & Brian Alweiss, will become a Bar Mitzvah on January 21, 2017 (23 Tevet, 5777). Mazel Tov to Ronnie & the Alweiss family.

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Noreen Daniel  
Harriet Goodman  
Stanley Kalfus  
Rebecca Katz  
Martin Novzen  
Sandy Novzen  
Jay Parker  
Rachel Parker  
Maurice Rotkopf  
Anne Spiegel  
Edward Starer



## **JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

Lynne & Joel Zakoff

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Lorraine Carroll  
Meryl Colman  
Edward Finfer  
Eugene Grozinger  
Hilda Kalfus  
Roni Krinsky  
Abe Miller  
Ophira Moses  
Sidney Rubin  
Donald Weinberg  
Lynne Zakoff

## **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

Toby & Herb Usenheimer



## ***NOMINATING COMMITTEE FORMED***

The following members have been appointed to the Nominating Committee By Rabbi/President Romiel Daniel:

Ken Sasmor, Chairman  
Martin Cantor  
Susan Goldschmidt  
Ruth Loewenstein  
Elaine Spodick  
Edward Starer  
Donald Weinberg

The Nominating Committee will meet on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.

As per the by-laws of the Rego Park Jewish Center, the President must appoint "a Nominating Committee for the purpose of preparing a slate of nominees for the office of trustee."

A member who is interested in serving on the Rego Park Jewish Center's Board of Trustees should submit a petition according to the following guidelines:

1. He / she must be a member in good standing for one year immediately preceding the election.
2. A member of the Center may be nominated for the office of Trustee by a nominating petition signed by seven members in good standing together with his/her written consent. Such petition should be submitted in person or by registered mail to Ken Sasmor, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Rego Park Jewish Center, 97-30 Queens Blvd., Rego Park, NY 11374.
3. Petitions for nomination will be accepted until 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, January 12, 2017.

## SPECIAL EVENTS GROUP NEWS - REVIEWS

Lee Lobel-Zwang, Coordinator

### *REVIEW* *OPEN HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS*

It was a prideful revelation to learn our beautiful Synagogue/Center is a historic treasure designed in the artistic art-deco period of that time. Rabbi Romiel Daniel welcomed new people, members and guests, to the Chapel, as he detailed our history. The Jewish community in the 1930s had a synagogue in a storefront. When the congregation grew, they decided to build on Queens Boulevard. Our present building opened in 1948. The building was designed by the outstanding architect Frank Grad. It is adorned with a large mosaic and leaded stained glass windows in the inside, all designed by A. Raymond Katz, a major figure in twentieth century American Jewish art. Then moving into the Sanctuary, the participants were fascinated by the tall gorgeous stained glass windows - three on each side of the sanctuary. Rabbi Daniel explained the complex designs, interwoven with Hebrew letters, symbols and abstract shapes and colors. He detailed the bimah and the ark, taking out a Torah and showing it up close. Questions were asked and answered. Other rooms were seen as well. We hope this Open House will result in having new people join our warm, welcoming Center family.

The jewel of our historic treasure is our traditional conservative Judaism, led by the intellectual, spiritual leadership of Rabbi Romiel Daniel with a devoted congregation of men and women - featuring an attractive variety of spiritual, cultural and social activities & Torah study as it relates to our modern lives. We welcome Jews from many cultures, with warm friendship and caring. We can call the Rego Park Jewish Center our second home.

Rabbi Donald Weinberg  
Lee Lobel-Zwang

### *REVIEW* *EXPRESSION IN THE ARTS*

#### *VISUAL ARTS AND POETRY*

Leora Agron invited the group to be creative in reacting to "light and dark." We used sheets of white and black paper, pens, and scissors to cut out designs, then verbally expressed our reactions. Most reacted to black and white as a cycle of life and death; others - happiness and sadness - hot and cold - silence and sound. The cut out shapes were most interesting. Mildred created a "Jewish Star of David" indicating her love of Yiddishkeit. Fran's shape was a kitten; she misses her cat Mandy very much. Esther made a long vine, meaning vines link worlds, unite elements and unify the circle of life. It was agreed this creativity gave us a greater understanding of ourselves.

Leah Indelman dramatized the poetry of Menahem Stern, poet and author who founded the Arts Group. This was the fifth memorial of his death. Leah featured the special poems from his book "100 Poems Plus." His poems deeply express nature, life and the Jews' deep problems. He was born in Poland.

The program ended with Mildred Pelton singing Yiddish songs. It was all a delight.

Lee Lobel-Zwang

# SPECIAL EVENTS GROUP NEWS - REVIEWS

Lee Lobel-Zwang, Coordinator

## ***PARASHAT & HAFTARAT CLUB***

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28  
at 12:30 P.M.**

**PARASHAT VA'ERA 6.2 - 9.35  
PARASHAT BO 10.1 - 13.16**

### **"LET MY PEOPLE GO"**

"When Pharaoh refused to let the people go, G-d brought terrible plagues upon Egypt. The Nile and all the water in Egypt turned to blood, but not in Goshen where the Israelites lived. Then frogs - lice - swarms of wild beasts; Pharaoh promised Moses he would let the people go. Once the plagues ceased, then he reneged. Herds and flocks devastated - still the answer was NO. A hail laid waste the beasts afflicted with boils - still NO - then a fiery hail laid waste fields and trees. Still Pharaoh said NO."

### **THE DEPARTURE OF THE ISRAELITES**

Parashat Bo - "G-d sent two more plagues - swarms of locusts - three days of darkness. The Israelites celebrated the first Passover - they smeared blood on their doorposts protecting them from the Angel of Death - struck down on all firstborn of Egypt, but passed over the homes of the Israelites. Pharaoh ordered the Hebrew slaves to leave Egypt. They left in haste."

### **HAFTARAT EZEKIEL 28.25 - 29.21 (VA'ERA)**

The House of Israel dispersed among nations, shall settle on their own soil, which the Lord gave to my servant Jacob. The word of the Lord came to Ezekiel. Oh mortal, turn your face against Pharaoh and prophesy against him. Speak these words - "O Pharaoh King of Egypt - the Lord G-d said, I am going to deal with you, mighty monster who said, my Nile is my own; I made it for myself - put hooks in your jaws, make the fish cling to your scales.

### **HAFTARAT JEREMIAH 46.13 - 28 (BO)**

The Lord spoke to Jeremiah about King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to attack Egypt. Tell in Egypt - Migdol - Nophana - Tahpanhes - Take your posts. Those areas will become a waste, desolate.

Presenters: Rabbi Romiel Daniel & Charles Lehat

## ***PARASHAT & HAFTARAT CLUB***

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18  
at 12:30 P.M.**

**PARASHAT YITRO 18.1 - 20.23**

**JETHRO, MOSES' FATHER IN LAW COMES -  
ADVISES MOSES ON DELEGATING HIS  
AUTHORITY.**

"Jethro joined the Israelites in the wilderness with his daughter Zipporah, wife of Moses and his two sons. He heard all that G-d had done for Moses - How the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt.

Israel encamped in front of Mount Sinai. Moses went up to G-d through thunder, lightning, dense clouds, loud blasts of the horn - all the people trembled - Moses spoke - G-d answered in thunder."

### **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

- I am your G-d who brought you out of Egypt.
- You shall have no other Gods besides me. You shall not make for yourself a sculptured image to bow down to.
- You shall not swear falsely by the name of the Lord.
- Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Do no work.
- Honor your father and mother.
- You shall not murder.
- You shall not commit adultery.
- You shall not steal.
- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- You shall not covet your neighbor's house - wife, or his male or female slave - or his ass or ox, or anything that is your neighbor's.

### **HAFTARAT ISAIAH 6.1 - 7.6, 9.5 - 6**

"In the year that King Uzziah died, I beheld my Lord seated on a high and lofty throne; the skirts of his robe filled the Temple." He had a strange vision that made him cry - "Woe is me; I am lost! For I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips - yet my own eyes have beheld the King Lord of hosts."

Presenters: Rabbi Romiel Daniel & Charles Lehat

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## **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**



Elena Ferrante is one of the best contemporary novelists. She is Italy's great story teller. She was born in Naples in 1943 and has written many best-selling novels. Most recently she is famous for her Neapolitan Quartet. The book we will be discussing at our January 11st meeting, My Brilliant Friend, is the first book of that series.

The story begins in a poor neighborhood near Naples in the early 1950s. Two eight-year old girls Elena Greco and Lila Cerullo, meet and become friends. Their friendship is formed over their mutual love of books and for a life larger than their poor working-class neighborhood offers them.

The dominant themes are friendship, including jealousy and competitiveness, as well as fun, support and comfort; upward mobility; and families with their complexities. All of this is against the background of Naples, its political, economic and social environment.

My Brilliant Friend has had a world-wide distribution and is popular for the author's exquisite attention to detail and her ease in capturing complex situations.

If you would like to join us or if you have any questions, please call me at 718-263-4973. We will be meeting at the Center on Wednesday, January 11th from 3:00 to 4:30 P.M.

Mollie Alkana

## **SUNDAY BREAKFAST CLUB & LEARN-IN WITH THE RABBI**

In recent weeks we studied the fourth, fifth and sixth name of G-d:

Adonai (Hashem) meaning the Master, who wants total and willing submission before he gives us what we ask for. This name appears approximately 400 times in the Bible.

El Elyon meaning the Exalted or most high, who is possessor of heaven and earth, source of all our blessings.

El Shaddai - meaning the Almighty, who will always provide for us in His time and protect all Israel. This name is mentioned only 48 times in the Bible.

Rabbi Daniel explained that when reading the English translation of the Torah, we can differentiate these names as follows:

YHWH is written as LORD - all capitals.

Adoni is written as Lord with capital "L".

Elohim is signified by the word G-d.

Our thanks to Rabbi Donald Weinberg for his talk in November on the multi-dimensional character of Abraham, his intensive relationships with G-d and the eight tests he was given in life.

Make 2017 a meaningful year! Gain new friendships and religious knowledge at our Sunday breakfasts.

Elaine Spodick

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## **YIDDISH VINKEL**

Revive your Yiddish. Our Yiddish Vinkel meets **most** Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 P.M. We speak Yiddish, read Yiddish stories and poems and sing Yiddish songs. Coffee and delicious danish are served. So come, enjoy warm friendship and have "fargeneegen."

**Please note: depending on weather conditions, Yiddish Vinkel may not be meeting each and every Wednesday afternoon this winter. Please phone the Center office on Wednesday mornings after 10:00 A.M. to confirm if Yiddish Vinkel will be meeting that day.**

Mildred Pelton,  
Yiddish Vinkel President

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Yahrzeit Fund

Claire & Daniel Begalman, in memory of son Douglas Scott Begalman.

Shirley Decker, in memory of brother Sol.

Lisa Eisner, in memory of Roberta Hirsh.

Eugene Grozinger, in memory of sister Rose Klein.

Ruth Kaplan, in memory of brother Icheskel.

Johanna Katz, in memory of father Moishe.

Abe Miller, in memory of father Chaim Miller.

Hedy Rothschild, in memory of brother Theo.

Sid Rubin, in memory of wife Lorraine Rubin.

Elaine Spodick, in memory of mother Perel Nechama.

Edward Starer, in memory of grandfather Shmuel.

Stanley Sternin, in memory of brother Lester Sternin.

Jacqueline Weiss, in memory of father Morris.

Jacqueline Weiss, in memory of grandfather Isaac.

## Hebrew School Fund

Charles Lehat, in memory of mother Sheila Lehat.

Ruthe Unger, in memory of mother Pauline.

## General Donations

Pnina Lanxner, in honor of opening the ark on Shabbat.

Sol Leibowitz

Marie Travali

Rochelle Wasserman, in honor of opening the ark on Shabbat.

## Commemorative Fund

Roslyn Feigenbaum, in honor of Lee Lobel-Zwang.

## Memorial Fund

Mordechai Boxer, in memory of Jack Rothwax.

## High Holiday & Yizkor Donations

Sanford Ferber

William Hilfer

Lisa Katz

Farshid Khoshnou

Betty & Harry Martell

Cheri Mondschein

Francine & Arthur Patsiner

Mr. & Mrs. Yevgeniy Pikus

Rachel Ruderman

Sandy Samuel

Eloyse & Stacy Schierman

Herbert Sinclair

Joan Steele

Martin Woolf

### **A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

Donations received by the Center office after December 16th will be listed in the March Bulletin.

## In Memoriam

*The members listed below  
will observe Yahrzeit as indicated.*

*Yahrzeit candles should be lit the night before.*

*Schedule of service elsewhere in this Bulletin.*

*Please help ensure a Minyan by attending services.*



**Sunday, January 1st**

Sidney Rubin - Father

**Tuesday, January 3rd**

Shirley Decker - Brother

**Thursday, January 5th**

Hedy Rothschild - Mother

**Saturday, January 7th**

Claire Begalman - Mother

**Sunday, January 8th**

Abraham Segal - Sister

Shirley Decker - Husband

**Monday, January 9th**

Rochelle Wasserman - Mother

**Tuesday, January 10th**

Bernice Mandell - Mother

**Thursday, January 12th**

Kathy Godfried - Father

**Friday, January 13th**

Allan Morrin - Mother

**Saturday, January 14th**

Lee Lobel-Zwang - Father

**Sunday, January 15th**

Pnina Lanxner - Father

Florence Cohen - Mother

Marion Art - Father

**Tuesday, January 17th**

Rachel Kacenenelbogen - Aunt

**Wednesday, January 18th**

Agnes Posner - Brother

Agnes Posner - Father

**Saturday, January 21st**

Ken Sasmor - Mother

**Tuesday, January 24th**

Joel Zakoff - Mother

**Wednesday, January 25th**

Daniel Begalman - Brother

Gail Edelstein - Mother

**Thursday, January 26th**

Seymour Weber - Mother

**Saturday, January 28th**

Zona Amper - Sister

**Monday, January 30th**

Joel Herbst - Mother

Rebecca Katz - Husband

William Katz - Father

**Tuesday, January 31st**

Mildred Pelton - Brother

**Friday, February 3rd**

Peggy Shimshi - Father

Rebecca Katz - Sister in law

Maurice Rotkopf - Father

**Saturday, February 4th**

Freda Gimple - Aunt

**Tuesday, February 7th**

Jacqueline Weiss - Grandmother

**Wednesday, February 8th**

Stanley Sternin - Father

**Friday, February 10th**

Seymour Weber - Wife

**Sunday, February 12th**

Magdalena Schoenfeld - Mother

**Monday, February 13th**

Ruth Wolfson - Husband

**Wednesday, February 15th**

Sidney Rubin - Father in law

**Thursday, February 16th**

Carol Stoller - Father

**Friday, February 17th**

Elaine Spodick - Father

**Saturday, February 18th**

Jack Alkana - Brother

Anne Spiegel - Sister in law

**Sunday, February 19th**

Susan Goldschmidt - Mother in law

**Monday, February 20th**

Leon Horowitz - Sister

Sidney Rubin - Mother in law

Magdalena Schoenfeld - Husband

**Tuesday, February 21st**

Martin Novzen - Mother

**Wednesday, February 22nd**

Rebecca Katz - Sister

**Saturday, February 25th**

Shirley Decker - Mother in law

**Monday, February 27th**

Max Amper - Father

Claire Begalman - Father

**Tuesday, February 28th**

Allan Morrin - Uncle

### ***IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MORNING SERVICES***

There are no morning services on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, unless it is Rosh Chodesh, a special holiday or - if there is a yahrzeit.

If you have a yahrzeit which falls on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday morning, you should inform Rabbi Daniel if you would like to have services.





## **PARKSIDE MEMORIAL CHAPEL**

has been the Funeral Director for the Rego Park Jewish Center for 50 years. We are both your neighbor and family and very proud of our long standing relationship.

We can be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 98-60 Queens Boulevard in Rego Park.

**(718) 896-9000**

Stop by sometime to discuss pre-arranging a funeral or to get a Yahrzeit Calendar or to answer any question you might have.

**OUR JEWISH FAMILY IS HERE TO HELP YOUR FAMILY**

# **PLAY BINGO**

## **AT REGO PARK JEWISH CENTER**

*Tuesday, January 3rd and January 17th*  
*Tuesday, February 7th and February 21st*

**Doors Open at 6:00 P.M.**

**Early Bird Game Starts - 7:00 P.M.**

**Regular Games Start - 7:15 P.M.**

**All Paper Games! \$4.00 Admission Includes 12 Games.  
Plus - Two Share the Wealth Games, Tri-Color Game,  
Jackpot, Progressive Jackpot Bonus, Bonus Ball Games**



**Over \$1,000 in Cash Prizes**



Rego Park Jewish Center  
97-30 Queens Blvd  
Rego Park, NY 11374



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