REGO PARK JEWISH CENTER BULLETIN

"And let them make for me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them."

EXODUS 25:8

VOLUME 79 NO. 2

TISHREI / CHESHVAN 5779

OCTOBER 2018

Sisterhood Celebrates

SISTERHOOD SHABBATON



Friday evening, November 2, 2018 Shabbat Dinner - 6:30 P.M.

Shabbat, November 3, 2018 Sisterhood will sponsor Kiddush

Donation:

\$25 Adults \$12 Children (ages 12 & under)

Reserve by Monday, October 29th

REGO PARK JEWISH CENTER

97-30 Queens Boulevard, Rego Park, NY 11374 Telephone: (718) 459-1000 Fax: (718) 459-0431

Website: www.rpjc.org

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

Ruth Loewenstein......Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Rabbi Romiel Daniel President

Sisterhood President Ruth Loewenstein

Sunday Breakfast Club & Learn-In President Romiel Daniel

> **Special Events Group** Lee Lobel-Zwang

> > Yiddish Vinkel Pnina Lanxner

THE KNITTING CIRCLE

invites you, your friends & neighbors for a pleasurable afternoon

KNITTING & CROCHETING

with

Pnina Lanxner, Chairperson

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25th at 1:00 P.M.

Come, meet new people, feel at home in our friendly group. Together we will make beautiful items for all seasons. Bring your needles and materials. Everyone welcome. \$2.00 - includes refreshments.

Note: Please call 718-459-1000 the morning of October 25th to confirm that the Knitting Circle will be meeting.

YIDDISH VINKEL

Revive your Yiddish. Our Yiddish Vinkel meets **most** Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 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. Please phone the Center office on Wednesday mornings after 10:00 A.M. to confirm if Yiddish Vinkel will be meeting that day.

Pnina Lanxner Yiddish Vinkel President

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

^{*} deceased

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

MAR CHESHVAN

This new month that follows the holiday laden month of Tishrei is quite different in mood and pace of life. It certainly lacks the drama of the preceding two months of Elul and Tishrei, the sense of awe and anticipation that the holidays always bring to us and the emotional depths of majesty, self analysis and finally joy that mark the previous months.

Cheshvan is when darkness reigns, yet growth begins deep beneath the surface.

The current Hebrew month, Cheshvan, is classically referred to as Marcheshvan. The first two words spell the word *mar*. In Hebrew, this word means "bitter," which some homiletically connect to the fact that there are no special occasions that occur in this month. Even Av, the month when we mourn the destruction of the two Holy Temples, is not referred to as "bitter," because the sad days of the year offer us an opportunity for introspection, to contemplate where we have gone wrong. Thus, both the festive days and the negative days can be used to connect to spirituality. A month that is bereft of any significant days, even sad days, is more bitter than anything, because there are no moments that arise to give us pause.

The word mar is also a title of respect. It is used often and regularly in the Talmud to refer to great personages and sometimes to the editor of the Talmud itself. It is a term of honor and even affection.

It is significant to note that the original name of this month was not Marcheshvan. This Babylonian name was adopted when the Jews went through the 70-year exile between the first and second temples. The original Hebrew name for the month was *Bul*, which denotes the idea of "drying up," as the leaves begin to decay with the approach of Autumn.

Clearly, the month of Marcheshvan, or Bul, as its name suggests, is a month of darkness and decay. Indeed, the biblical Book of Kings cites *Bul* as the month when King Solomon completed the construction of the first Temple – though the dedication did not take place until a year later, in the Hebrew month of Tishrei. What is the deeper significance of this, and what can we learn from it?

Two Key Events

If we search further, we find two other events that occurred in the month of Cheshvan. The first was the flood in the times of Noah. The flood began on the 17th of Cheshvan, and the waters receded by the following year on the 27th of Cheshvan, allowing Noah and the other inhabitants of the ark to disembark. Interestingly, one explanation of the name *Bul* is that it stems from this month as the beginning of the rainy season in Israel; it is thus connected to the word *mabul*, flood – an overabundance of rain.

It is significant to note that the flood was originally intended to begin on the 11th of Cheshvan. However, Methuselah passed away, and thus the flood was delayed in deference to the seven-day period of mourning that followed his death.

The second important event that occurred in Cheshvan seems unrelated at first glance. This was the death of Jacob's wife Rachel, as well as the birth of Benjamin, which occurred on the 11th of Cheshvan. It was precisely the same day as Methusaleh's death, the very day that flood had originally been slated to begin. As there are no coincidences in the Torah, we must ask: What is the connection between these two events, and what do they reveal about the essence of the month of Cheshvan?

In thinking about what the matriarch Rachel and her son Benjamin stand for, respectively, we can see that Rachel represents the Jewish people in exile, and Benjamin represents the completed state of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel. Rachel spent her entire life outside of Israel, and passed away just as Jacob and his family entered the holy land. As our Sages tell us, her spirit accompanied the Jewish people as they went into Babylonian exile, and it is she who cries for her children in exile until the final redemption comes.

Continued on page 4

"From the Rabbi's Desk" - continued from page 3

In contrast, Benjamin is the last son of Jacob, the twelfth of the tribes, whose birth marks the completion of the people of Israel. He is also the only son of Jacob that is born in Israel, and thus represents the Jewish people's perfected state in the land of Israel. This is further underscored, as the Ramchal explains, by the fact that Saul, the first king of the Jewish people, came from the tribe of Benjamin. Furthermore, the miracle of Purim, which immediately preceded the return of the Jews to Israel and the building of the Second Temple, was brought about through the vehicle of Mordechai and Esther, who came from the tribe of Benjamin.

Deep Hibernation

Exploring further, we see that the very death of Rachel resulted in the birth of Benjamin. This would correspond to the idea that the exile itself is that which births the redemption. The descent into darkness creates the potential for the future light.

This theme can be seen in the flood, as well. Although the world in its previous state came to an end, at the same time, there was a new beginning which was being sown in the person of Noah. The very passing of Methusaleh opened the curtain for Noah to assume leadership of the next generation. The death of the previous order gave rise to a new potential for growth.

Now we can explain the essence of the month of Cheshvan, as brought to light by the events that occurred in this month. Cheshvan is a time that is "bitter," for there seems to be no opportunities for growth and spiritual connection. It is a time of deterioration, as the leaves wither and the world enters a state of deep hibernation. And yet, it is also a time when the rains begin, when the potential for future growth is being sown. It is a time when spiritual darkness reigns, yet when spiritual growth begins deep beneath the surface. It is the moment when Rachel passes on, when all seems bleak, when the darkness of exile closes in; and it is the moment of the birth of Benjamin, the seed of the Jewish people's perfected state, which is sown in that very darkness.

Cheshvan begins the extended time span between the last festival, Sukkot, and the next, Passover. In the meantime, the spiritual seeds planted during the Jewish month of Tishrei begin to take root – to be watered and to grow, finally appearing and bearing fruit in Nissan of next year.

It is difficult to climb down from the highs of Tishrei and its inspirational holidays, family gatherings, beautiful and meaningful synagogue services and a generally special atmosphere. How to climb down gracefully and successfully from such a spiritual and emotional high is not always an easy or smooth exercise. It requires some sort of long range perspective.

The message of Cheshvan is that despite the darkness, and even because of the darkness, there is future growth that awaits us. We have the opportunity to nurture that right at this moment. It is now that we gather the seeds from the holidays of the month of Tishrei, plant them, and carefully water them through the winter months. With God's help, we will soon marvel at the beautiful spring bounty that we merit to cultivate.

To be able to live a balanced life one must attempt to limit one's highs and lows, to be less volatile and much more steady in one's view of life and one's behavior. So a little taste of disappointment, even of some bitterness, is to be expected and dealt with properly. And this is also part of the message of this month of Mar Cheshvan.

Best wishes for a healthy and peaceful winter.

Rabbi Romiel Daniel



FOCUS ON SISTERHOOD



"SHEHEHE'YANU" WE THANK G-D FOR ALL THINGS RENEWED AND "L'DOR V'DOR" THEY SHALL POSSESS IT FOREVER, FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.

ISAIAH 34:17

The festival of Simchat Torah teaches us that the study of Torah is basic to fulfilling the Mitzvot. On Simchat Torah we conclude the last book (Deuteronomy) of the Torah and immediately begin again with the Book of Genesis (Bereshit). This is the symbol, that we too can start again in whatever we are trying to achieve. We can increase our personal growth, become closer to K'lal Israel, and engage in deeds of loving kindness. Hillel teaches in "Pirkay Avot" "More Torah, more life....one who learns Torah, acquires eternal life." Let us resolve to use the beginning of the Torah cycle to rededicate ourselves to our family, to Sisterhood, to the Rego Park Jewish Center, to our community, to Israel and to Judaism.

Now we are in the midst of a busy season. The Yamim Nor'im have come and gone. Our ladies participated in the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services with the reading of the prayers as well as opening and closing of the holy ark at various points. Our services, led by Rabbi Romiel Daniel and Cantor Yehuda Rottner, were truly inspiring and uplifting. On Yom Kippur we again made our pledge which we hope to be able to fulfill by the end of the fiscal year in 2019. From the somber reflective observances of the high holy days, we entered the joyous celebration and observance of the Sukkot festival. On Sunday evening, September 23rd, Erev Sukkot, we fulfilled the Mitzvot of sitting and eating in the Sukkah by joining the Center's dinner. Then on Thursday, September 27th, "Chol Hamoed", we had our very own innovative meeting in our Sukkah. It was a wonderful meeting of innovation as well as tradition as we welcomed the seven Ushpizot both ancient as well as modern (so actually we talked about 14 women.) Wonderful explanations and discussions led by our Rebbetzin Noreen Daniel and Sisterhood members gave us new insights into this very new development. Of course we eagerly await Simchat Torah on Tuesday, October 2nd so that we can claim our aliyah under the big tallit, and

together proudly chant the blessings. Sisterhood also hosted Shabbat afternoon, September 29th with Rabbi Daniel in the Sukkah. The whole community was invited. Todah Rabah, Rabbi Daniel.

On Monday, October 15th, our meeting at 12:15 P.M. will be a learning experience and quite interesting and informative. We shall have a representative (s) from ACCESS-A-RIDE come to our meeting. They will provide useful and accurate information that reflects some of the experiences of their customers, including us. You will learn more about the AAR Paratransit Service as well as many new initiatives. New York City Transit has launched new updated and modern services for your benefit. Come and learn and ask questions - let your voices be heard. Bring a dairy sandwich or yogurt and we shall provide coffee and cake.

Our Torah Fund campaign is in full swing and next month we shall unveil the name of our Woman of Achievement. In the meantime we have received comments and compliments on the new Torah Fund pin, ATID - the future - which we are wearing. Be a part of this important future.

Watch the mail and hold the date for Sisterhood's Shabbaton on Friday, November 2nd and Shabbat, November 3rd, 2018.

We congratulate our wonderful member, Hanna Katz who was 107 years old in September. We wish you good health and we wish that you continue with the wonderful outlook on life that you have. We can learn from you and we are blessed to have you in our midst.

Hag Sameach V'Lhitra'ot Ruth Loewenstein

SPECIAL EVENTS GROUP NEWS - REVIEWS

Lee Lobel-Zwang, Coordinator

TIME TO STUDY TORAH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20TH
at 12:30 P.M.

PARASHAT LECH LECHA 12.1 - 17.27 HAFTARAT ISAIAH 40.27 - 41.16

"G-d called Abram to leave his home and go to the land of Canaan. Abram and Sarai, with nephew Lot, settled in Canaan. Sarai was barren - giving her maid Hagar to Abram to bear a child Ishmael. G-d changed Abram's name to Abraham and Sarai to Sarah. Ishmael at thirteen, Abraham at ninety-nine circumcised himself, his son and all the males of his household."

Because of famine in the land, Abram went down to Egypt and said to Sarai, because of your beauty, pretend you are my sister, otherwise they would kill me to have you. The Egyptians saw her and brought her to Pharaoh's palace. Because of her, it went well with Abram. He acquired cattle. The Lord afflicted Pharaoh with plagues - he learned the truth about Sarai and sent them away. Abram became wealthy with cattle!

HAFTARAT ISIAH 40.27 - 41.16

"The Lord is G-d from of old, creator of the earth from end to end. He never grows faint or weary and his wisdom cannot be fathomed. He gives strength to the weary, fresh vigor to the spent."

Presenters: Rabbi Romiel Daniel & Charles Lehat

FESTIVE TOGETHERNESS

THE PARK HILLS HADASSAH CHAPTER

and

THE WOMEN IN JUDAISM SERIES

A FESTIVE SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23RD AT 1:00 P.M.

Featuring

RUTH GURSKY

National Board Speaker

Presenting

THE 360 DEGREES OF HEALING

and

NOREEN DANIEL, CHAIR CONNECTING TO JEWISH LIVING

All Welcome

\$5.00 Refreshments served

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

At our October 17th meeting we will be discussing <u>Educated</u> by Tara Westover. This memoir is powerful, engaging and inspiring.

Tara Westover, who is now in her early thirties, was the youngest of seven children born into a Mormon family living in southeastern Idaho. They were a close-knit family living a rather isolated life in the countryside. They lived in survivalist fashion, that is, the father was distrustful of government, of the medical profession, of the education system. In addition, he was much guided by his interpretation of his religious beliefs.

Westover writes that her childhood Miss homeschooling consisted of learning to read from the bible and the Book of Mormon. She enjoyed the natural world, the beautiful outdoors while picking leaves and herbs with her herbalist mother who later became a midwife as well. This was a source of family income. Her father worked at building barns and sheds and by scrapping metal in his junkyard. All the children, including Tara, were on call to assist their father. In accordance with his beliefs, he refused any outside medical attention beyond his wife's herbal remedies. The author was encouraged to seek further learning by one brother who studied deeply and seriously and eventually left for college.

The author taught herself enough grammar and mathematics to be admitted to Brigham Young University. Miss Westover eventually made it to Harvard and to Cambridge and then back to Cambridge for her Ph.D. in history. An important section of her story is her relationship with a brother ten years her senior. He bullied her in a most outrageous fashion. He victimized her and she received no help or protection from her parents.

Tara Westover was seventeen years of age, without a birth certificate, with relatively no knowledge of any world but her own when she applied and was accepted at Brigham Young University. Breaking away from her family and its traditions which took many years to accomplish required courage, inner strength, determination and intellect. Educated is a well written brilliantly told story of an American girl's life in the late twentieth century. It makes us aware of the power an individual has in determining her own life.

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, October 17th from 3:00 to 4:30 P.M.

Mollie Alkana

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Mollie Alkana
Florence Cohen
Rabbi Romiel Daniel
Carl Ellman
Freda Gimple
Shirley Klieger
Florence Most
Carol Stoller
Seymour Weber
Jacqueline Weiss
Joel Zakoff



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Sheila & Ken Sasmor



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ida Ann Shapiro

REFUAH SHELEIMAH

Mark Hochberg

SHEMINI ATZERET SERVICE

Monday, October 1st at 9:00 A.M. YIZKOR

<u>SIMCHAT TORAH SERVICES</u>

Monday, October 1st at 7:30 P.M.

Tuesday, October 2nd at 9:00 A.M.

October 2018

TISHREI / CHESHVAN 5779

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 TISHREI 22	2 TISHREI 23	3 TISHREI 24	4 TISHREI 25	5 TISHREI 26	6 TISHREI 27
	M.S. 9:00 A.M. YIZKOR E.S. 6:30 P.M. HAKAFOT 7:30 PM C.L. 7:18 P.M. SHEMINI ATZERET	M.S. 9:00 A.M. E.S. 6:30 P.M.	N.M.S. Y.V. 1:00 P.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	N.M.S. E.S. 6:30 P.M. C.L. 6:13 P.M.	M.S. 9:00 A.M. B.B. E.S. 6:15 P.M. S.E. 7:10 P.M.
	EREV SIMCHAT TORAH	SIMCHAT TORAH				"BEREISHIT"
7 TISHREI 28	8 TISHREI 29	9 TISHREI 30	10 CHESHVAN 1	11 CHESHVAN 2	12 CHESHVAN 3	13 CHESHVAN 4 2
M.S. 8:45 A.M. B.C.L.I. 9:30 A.M. N.E.S.	M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	M.S. 7:00 A.M. Y.V. 1:00 P.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M. R.C. 6:30 P.M.	M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	N.M.S. E.S. 6:15 P.M. C.L. 6:02 P.M.	M.S. 9:00 A.M. E.S. 6:00 P.M. S.E. 6:59 P.M.
		ROSH CH	HODESH			"NOACH"
14 CHESHVAN 5	15 CHESHVAN 6	16 CHESHVAN 7	17 CHESHVAN 8	18 CHESHVAN 9	19 CHESHVAN 10	20 CHESHVAN 11
M.S. 8:45 A.M. B.C.L.I. 9:30 A.M. N.E.S.	M.S. 7:00 A.M. SIST. 12:15 P.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	N.M.S. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	N.M.S. Y.V. 1:00 P.M. B.D. 3:00 P.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M. R.C. 6:30 P.M.	M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	N.M.S. E.S. 6:00 P.M. C.L. 5:51 P.M.	M.S. 9:00 A.M. T.S. 12:30 P.M. E.S. 5:45 P.M. S.E. 6:49 P.M.
						"LECH LECHA"
21 CHESHVAN 12	22 CHESHVAN 13	23 CHESHVAN 14	24 CHESHVAN 15	25 CHESHVAN 16	26 CHESHVAN 17	27 CHESHVAN 18
M.S. 8:45 A.M. B.C.L.I. 9:30 A.M. S.D. 2:00 P.M. N.E.S.	M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	N.M.S. W.J. 1:00 P.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	N.M.S. Y.V. 1:00 P.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	M.S. 7:00 A.M. KNITTING 1 PM E.S. 6:15 P.M.	N.M.S. E.S. 6:00 P.M. C.L. 5:42 P.M.	M.S. 9:00 A.M. E.S. 5:45 P.M. S.E. 6:40 P.M.
						"VAYERA"
28 CHESHVAN 19 M.S. 8:45 A.M. B.C.L.I. 9:30 A.M. N.E.S.	29 CHESHVAN 20 M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	30 CHESHVAN 21 N.M.S. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	31 CHESHVAN 22 N.M.S. Y.V. 1:00 P.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.	B.B. = BIRTHDAY BLESSSINGS 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 V.V. = YIDDISH VINKEL		

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

YAHRZEIT FUND

Mollie Alkana, in memory of father Philip.

Reuben Ezra, in memory of father Heskail Ezra.

Susan Goldschmidt, in memory of husband Rudy Goldschmidt.

Ira Hochman, in memory of brother Marvin Hochman.

Rachel Kacenelenbogen, in memory of sister Yaffa.

Ruth Kaplan, in memory of brother Chanan.

Ruth Kaplan, in memory of son in law Gary.

Johanna Katz, in memory of husband Alfred Katz.

Bertha Klein, in memory of aunt Aliza.

Stanley Sternin, in memory of wife Shirley Sternin.

Mel Weiss, in memory of father Harry Weiss.

GENERAL DONATIONS

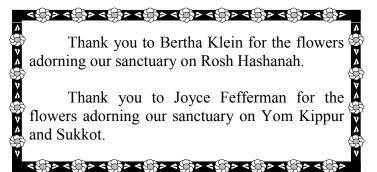
Shirley Decker, in honor of reading prayer on Shabbat. Rachel Kacenelenbogen, in honor of reading prayer on Shabbat.

SPECIAL FUNDRAISING APPEAL

Hilda Kalfus

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Donations received by the Center office after September 7th will be listed in the November Bulletin.



MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR SPONSORING A CONGREGATIONAL KIDDUSH OR PARASHAT CLUB LUNCHEON

Rabbi Donald Weinberg, who will be sponsoring the congregational kiddush on October 6th.

<u>SPONSOR OR CO-SPONSOR</u> <u>A KIDDUSH</u>

Consider sponsoring or co-sponsoring a Shabbat kiddush! This is a wonderful opportunity to mark the observance of important events such as a yahrzeit or a simcha. Note: It does not have to be one person only. It could be two or three people getting together to sponsor a kiddush. The cost is very reasonable and we provide enough food for everyone to enjoy. But most importantly, we get together, we take the time to create new friendships and to enjoy existing ones.

Please contact the Center office for more information.



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

Please note: 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.

Tuesday, October 2nd

Ruth Loewenstein - Father

Wednesday, October 3rd

Johanna Katz - Relative

Arthur Schwartz - Brother

Thursday, October 4th

Ruth Kaplan - Father

Friday, October 5th

John Landes - Father

Peter Landes - Father

Saturday, October 6th

Toby Usenheimer - Mother Leonor Herbst - Brother in law

Monday, October 8th

George Godfried - Father

Tuesday, October 9th

Lee Lobel-Zwang - Sister

Wednesday, October 10th

Allan Morrin - Grandmother

Sonia Antman - Relatives

Harriet Goodman - Father

Sandi Goodman - Father

Saturday, October 13th

Freda Gimple - Aunt

Sunday, October 14th

Freda Gimple - Grandfather

Ira Werner - Grandmother

Wednesday, October 17th

Pnina Lanxner - Husband

Thursday, October 18th

Shirley Decker - Sister in law

Friday, October 19th

Stanley Sternin - Brother in law

Mollie Alkana - Sister

Tuesday, October 23rd

Max Amper - Mother

Wednesday, October 24th

Stanley Sternin - Father in law

Sunday, October 28th

Florence Most - Brother

Monday, October 29th

Florence Most - Mother



Rego Park Jewish Center website: www.rpjc.org

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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.

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

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



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