



The Poile Zedek Bulletin

July/August 2004
Rabbi: Abraham J. Mykoff

Av 5764
President: Mr. Danny Ravitz

"How does the city sit solitary
that was full of people! How is
she become as a widow."

"Comfort, comfort my people,
says your G-d."



"איכה ישבה בדד העיר
רבתי עם. היתה כאלמנה."

"נחמו, נחמו עמי יאמר
אלקיכם."

THE RABBI'S MESSAGE

We are now nearing the end of the "Three Weeks" the period of mourning for the destruction of the *Bais Hamikdash*, the Temple. This period began July 6 with the Fast of the 17th of Tamuz and will end this coming Monday night and Tuesday, July 26-27, with the fast of the Ninth of Av. The Chafetz Chayim points out that it is most critical for us to be aware of the sins that caused the *churban*, the destruction of the *Bais Hamikdash* and prolong the exile. By correcting these faults we can avert future tragedy and thereby bring about the future redemption.

In the Tractate *Yoma* (9b) the *Gemarrab* (Talmud) asks: "Why was the first temple destroyed?" The *Gemarrab* attributes the destruction of the First Temple to the Jewish nation's transgressing the three cardinal sins: idolatry, adultery, and murder. However, the *Gemarrab* asks: "During the era of the Second Temple when Judaism was flourishing the *Torah* was studied and people were performing many *mitzvoth*, why was the Second Temple destroyed?" The *Talmud* attributes the destruction of the second temple to *sin'at chinam*, unjustified hatred, and its derivatives including *lashon harab*, speaking derogatorily. It equates baseless hatred of our fellow man with the three major sins of idolatry, adultery, and murder. In fact, it was the *lashon harab* of the *meraglim*, the spies, which caused the death

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THE President's MESSAGE

Greetings to all. I hope that this finds you in good health and enjoying your summer.

The *Torah* (*Parshat Vayishlach*, Numbers 13) recounts the episode of the spies sent by Moshe to reconnoiter the land of Canaan (*Eretz Yisroel*). Rather than bringing back a positive report of the land that *Hashem* was giving them as a gift, they returned with a disparaging report, causing the people to fear and weep. G-d then vowed that henceforth the day of *Tisha B'av* would always be a day of weeping. As a result of the spies' report, the Israelites were forced to wander in the wilderness for 40 years until the generation that left Egypt died. Only then could they enter the promised land. Thenceforth, and throughout their history, *Tisha B'av* has been an infamous and ominous day for the Jewish people, the day when both temples were destroyed.

Thus we can see the awesome power of speech - the *lashon harab* of 10 spies against the land of Israel resulted in such tragedy and its consequences continue to this day. By the same token, speech can have a powerful positive effect, as well. With the proper words, we can support our brethren and through the sanctification of G-d's name, we can create a world of good that will have far reaching consequences.

Let us remember to always use our power of speech for good and never utter a disparaging word. I hope you all have an easy fast and a great summer.

Danny

Tisha B'av Schedule

MONDAY, JULY 26—<i>EREV TISHA B'AV</i>	
Shacharit:	7:15 A.M.
Fast starts	8:05 P.M.
<i>Tisha B'Av</i> services:	
Ma'ariv, Eicha and Kinot	8:30 P.M.
TUESDAY, JULY 27—<i>TISHA B'AV</i>	
Shacharit	7:00 A.M.
Mincha	1:40 P.M.
Fast ends	9:05 P.M.
FRIDAY, JULY 30—<i>EREV SHABBAT NACHAMU</i>	
Shacharit	7:15 A.M.
Candle lighting	7:56 P.M.
Mincha	8:00 P.M.
SHABBAT, JULY 31—<i>SHABBAT NACHAMU</i> <i>PARSHA VA'ETCHANAN</i>	
Shacharit	9:00 A.M.
<i>Shabbat</i> ends	9:00 P.M.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 1	
Shacharit	8:00 A.M.

WEEKLY CLASSES & SHIURIM



Millionaire's Club— Lunch & Torah study
 Tuesday 12:00 P.M.— 1:30 P.M.
 Thursday 12:00 P.M.— 1:30 P.M.

Partners in Torah—Study group with your own private rabbi from Lakewood. Refreshments and *Ma'ariv* following.
 Wednesday—8:15 P.M.

English as a Second Language— Mon-7 P.M.
 with Linda Greenberg

Beginners Hebrew — Monday 7:30 P.M.
 with Rochelle Silverstein

For further information please call the synagogue at (732) 545-6123.

High Holidays 2004

Rosh Hashanah: Thurs. & Fri., Sept. 16 & 17.
 Tzom Gidalyah: Sunday, September 19
 Yom Kippur:
 Kol Nidre Fri., Sept. 24 - & Sat., Sept. 25.
 Succot thru Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah:
 Wed. eve, Sept. 29 - Fri., Oct. 8.

Laws & Reflections Relating to Tisha B'av

In addition to the restriction against eating or drinking, we refrain from bathing, anointing, wearing leather shoes and marital relations.

The *Talmud* lists five tragedies which befell our people on *Tisha B'Av*.

- ♦ On this day, the *meraglim* (spies) returned and it was decreed that the generation that had left Egypt would die out in the desert during the forty years of wandering.
- ♦ The first *Bais Hamikdash* (temple) was destroyed by the Babylonians.
- ♦ The second *Bais Hamikdash* was destroyed by the Romans.
- ♦ The fortress of Betar was destroyed by the Romans and Bar Kochba's revolt was crushed.
- ♦ The city of Jerusalem was razed to the ground and plowed over.

In addition, other tragedies which have occurred on *Tisha B'Av* include the beginning of the First Crusade in 1095; the expulsion of Jews from Spain by King Ferdinand in 1492; and the beginning of World War One in 1914.

Other highlights in the Month of Av:

Shabbat Nachamu – July 31: The *Shabbat* after *Tisha B'Av* is called *Shabbat Nachamu*, named for the *Haftorah* read that *Shabbat*. It is taken from Isaiah, Chapter 40, and begins with the words "*Nachamu, Nachamu Ami*" (Comfort, comfort my people). *Shabbat Nachamu* is the first of seven *Haftarot* of consolation.

Tu B'Av (15th of Av) – August 2: This was the day when the Jews in the dessert realized that the generation of the *midbar* had stopped dying – no more would die because of the sin of the *meraglim*.

When the Jewish people lived on their land, this day was an occasion for celebration of various events; the *Talmud* calls *Tu B'Av* one of the most joyous days of the Hebrew calendar..

Tachanun is not said on this day.

Eruv Information

In order to utilize the New Brunswick eruv, you must check weekly on its status (whether it is up or down for that Shabbat). If you would like to be notified by weekly e-mail of the status, please call the Hillel Foundation: (732) 545-2407 and request to be placed on the Eruv e-mail list.

Good & Welfare

Mazel Tov

To the following upon their celebrations:

Marriages

Daniel & Rivka Wenger on their recent marriage. Both are Rutgers University students. Daniel assists as a Ba'al Koreh for our minyan.

Births

Dr. Rick Black & Dr. Laura Ahearn on the birth of a daughter.

Tzaischem L'Shalom

And *Hataz'lacha Rabba* to Yehuda Leib Brown and Chaim Solomon who are going to Israel. They will be studying in a *Yeshiva* in *Yerushalayim*. Yehuda Leib and Chaim are Rutgers students who have been very involved with the synagogue; their participation will be missed.

Refuah Shelaima

A speedy and complete recovery to the following: Luiza Ashurova, Bea Einstein, Pearl Friedkin, Miriam Goldman, Freda Gordon, Regina Kafel, Yehudit Mitchell, Richard Ornstein, Edith Schwartz, & Sima Svirsky.

Condolences

We wish to express our heartfelt condolences to the family of Betty Pincus.

“May the Almighty console the family among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.”

Yahrzeits

Av 5764 - July/August 2004

4 Av July 22

Bernard IsraelAunt Sadie

15 Av August 2

Harvey Lederfather

19 Av August 6

Marvin Marantz.....brother Morris

Edith Schwartzbrother Morris

30 Av August 17

Sylvia Margolis.....father

Elul 5764 - August/September 2004

1 Elul August 18

Mark Berkowitzfather

Robert Berkowitz..father

Rhonda Jasperfather

9 Elul August 26

Marvin Marantz ... brother Herman

Norman Mironov. mother

Charles Mironov... mother

Edith Schwartz brother Herman

14 Elul August 31

Elizabeth Friedman..... brother Manny

16 Elul September 2

Henrietta Buckner mother

23 Elul September 9

Ron Greenberg..... mother

Ruth Grossman ... father

Joan Israel..... Aunt Hilda

27 Elul September 13

Richard Bruskin.....mother

Miriam Goldman.....mother

Bernard Israel.....grandmother Esther

Bernice Weinblatt.....mother

Congratulation to the following officers on their election:

Danny Ravitz -President

Eric Kammer- Vice President

Hy Appelbaum - Treasurer

Caryn Lipson - Financial Secretary

Ira Gang - Recording Secretary

Morris Gorlin - Trustee

Marvin Marantz - Trustee

Celebrate at Poile Zedek

Do you have a wedding or Bar/Bat Mitzvah coming up?

The magnificent sanctuary in our landmark synagogue is available for your simcha.

We also have a room for kiddushim, luncheons and parties (anniversary , birthday , bris or upsherin). Or you can hold your service in the sanctuary and your reception next door at the Hyatt. Either way, it will be an affair to be remembered.

Please call the synagogue at 732-545-6123 for more information.

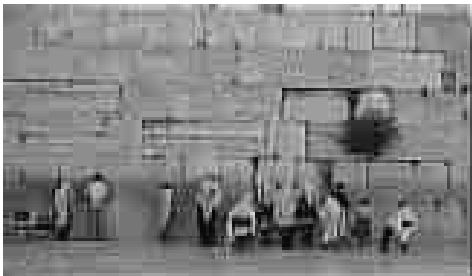
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of the generation of the *midbar* (the desert) and prevented their entrance into *Eretz Yisrael*. Ultimately *Tisha B'av*, the night of the *meraglim's* return, was to become the saddest day of the Jewish calendar.

Thus, we see how important it is to eliminate *sin'at chinam* and to promote *abavas chesed*, loving kindness, and all its ramifications, thereby bringing about the *geula sh'laimah*, the true redemption.

During the era of the great Rabbi Akiva, twenty-four thousand of his students also met a tragic fate due to their lack of *kavod habriyos*, honoring their fellow man. It was Rabbi Akiva who stated that "*Ve'ahavtah lerayacha kamocho* (*Vayikra* 19:18) - *zeh klal gadol batorah*" - "To love your fellow Jew as yourself is the most fundamental principle of the Torah."

Let us pray that in the merit of increasing our love for our fellow Jews we will help bring about the rebuilding of the *Bais Hamikdash* and the coming of the *Mashiach* speedily in our days.



Your Contributions Count!

Your contributions to Poile Zedek are most important. Not only do they support the operation of the shul, they also enable Poile Zedek to continue providing vital services to our community.

On a regular basis, Poile Zedek is host to several different programs:

- Partners in Torah Program (one on one weekly Torah learning).
- Beginner Hebrew classes.
- The Millionaires Club (Lunch and Torah study).
- Holiday luncheons and dinners.
- Annual Chanukah and Purim parties.
- ESL classes (English as a second language).

These programs are important to our own

membership and the community at large including the many Russian Jewish immigrants and Rutgers students in New Brunswick. These activities help many people maintain their ties to Judaism by strengthen their Jewish background and enabling them to participate in Jewish services and holiday celebrations.

The congregation also acts as an ombudsman on behalf of our Russian Jewish brethren, helping them with their social, religious, and financial needs.

By supporting Poile Zedek you are supporting Jewish continuity.

Poile Zedek has established and maintains the New Brunswick eruv which links the Edison/Highland Park community with New Brunswick, making it easier for people visiting St. Peter's University Hospital, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, and the Hyatt on Shabbos.

By supporting Poile Zedek you are supporting the Jewish community.

Poile Zedek has three funds which help us achieve our goals as well.

The Joan Schick Educational Fund

This fund will include the dedication of the Joan Schick Memorial Library. The fund will be used to support Torah education on both a community and individual basis. It is in memory of a true woman of valor who devoted herself tirelessly to the synagogue.

The Rebbetzin Fanny Mykoff Torah Fund

Established in the memory of Rabbi Abraham Mykoff's mother, of blessed memory, the Torah fund furthers Torah observance by assisting individuals to meet their social and religious needs.

The William Weber Matzah Fund

The William Weber Matzah fund was established by William Weber, of blessed memory, a veteran member of the congregation. The Matzah fund provides Passover food for the needy and sponsors our annual Community Seder. This year food was distributed to more than 100 families and over 75 people attended the Community Seder.

To become involved in our programs or make a donation, please call the synagogue office.