



The Poile Zedek Bulletin

August 2005
145 Neilson Street, P.O. Box 166
New Brunswick, NJ 08903
(732) 545-6123

Av 5765
Rabbi: Abraham J. Mykoff
President: Danny Ravitz
www.PoileZedek.org

"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."



"איך ישבה בדד העיר
רבותי עם. הייתה כלמנה".

"נחמו, נחמו עמי יאמר
אלקיכם".

THE RABBI'S MESSAGE

We are now nearing the end of the "Three Weeks", a period of national mourning for the destruction of the *Bais Hamikdash*, the Holy Temple. This period began Sunday, July 24, with the Fast of the 17th of Tamuz and will culminate this coming Saturday night and Sunday, August 13-14, 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 destruction of the *Bais Hamikdash* and has prolonged the exile. By correcting these faults we can avert future tragedy and thereby bring about the future redemption.

In the Tractate *Yoma* (9b) the *Gemarrah* (Talmud) asks: "Why was the first temple destroyed?" The *Gemarrah* attributes the destruction of the First Temple to the Jewish nation's transgressing the three cardinal sins: idolatry, adultery, and murder. However, the *Gemarrah* 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 harah*, 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 harah* of the *meraglim*, the spies, which caused the death of the generation of the *midbar* (the desert) and prevented their entrance into

THE President's MESSAGE

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

I am pleased to announce the recent addition of two new classes.

A Torah study class was recently formed by members of our Russian community for those wanting to learn the Torah. The class, taught in Russian by Rabbi Eli Kogan, meets Thursday evenings, from 7-9 pm. Participants are enthusiastically learning the Book of Genesis. The class is open to men and women. Refreshments are served.

Earlier this year, participants of our Partners in Torah program initiated a *Hilchos Brachos* class (Laws of Blessings) under the guidance of Rabbi Chezky Toporowitz. This class, which was held Sunday evenings at 8 pm, recessed for the summer. We hope that it will reconvene after Labor Day. Anyone who is interested in participating is asked to call the synagogue.

Our Partners In Torah participants have just celebrated a second Siyum this year — a festive party upon the completion of a volume of the Torah. Rabbi Mendy Meyer and Dr. Robert Berkowitz completed the *mishnaic* volume of *Pe'Ah* which they began studying with their partner Shimon Perlman, זל, of blessed memory, who passed away July 10. The Siyum was dedicated in his memory.

The first Siyum this year was celebrated when Rabbi Gornish, who heads the program, and his partner, Dr. Keith Sherrow, completed the *mishnaic* volume

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Tisha B'Av Schedule

SHABBAT, AUGUST 13—EREV TISHA B'AV	
Shacharit:	9:00 A.M.
Fast starts	7:50 P.M.
Shabbat ends	8:50 P.M.
When Shabbat ends we make the blessing over the candle only, and Havdalah over the wine is said Sunday night after the fast ends.	
<i>Tisha B'Av</i> services:	
Ma'ariv, Eicha and Kinot	9:25 P.M.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 14—TISHA B'AV	
Shacharit	8:00 A.M.
Mincha	1:40 P.M.
Fast ends	8:43 P.M.
FRIDAY, AUGUST 19—EREV SHABBAT NACHAMU	
Shacharit	7:15 A.M.
Candle lighting	7:30 P.M.
SHABBAT, AUGUST 20—SHABBAT NACHAMU, TU B'AV PARSHA VA'ETCHANAN	
Shacharit	9:00 A.M.
Shabbat ends	8:40 P.M.
SUNDAY, AUGUST	
Shacharit	8:00 A.M.
followed by breakfast	



WEEKLY CLASSES & SHIURIM

Millionaire 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 with your own private rabbi from Lakewood. Refreshments and

Ma'ariv follow. Wednesday—8:10 P.M.

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

Hilchos Brachos Class (laws of blessings)—Sunday 8:00 P.M. with Rabbi Chezky Toporowitz. Tentatively scheduled to resume after Labor Day.

Torah Study in Russian — Thursday 7:00 P.M. Learn the Torah with Rabbi Eli Kogan. Men and women. Refreshments served.

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



Rosh Hashanah: Tues. & Wed., Oct. 4 & 5.

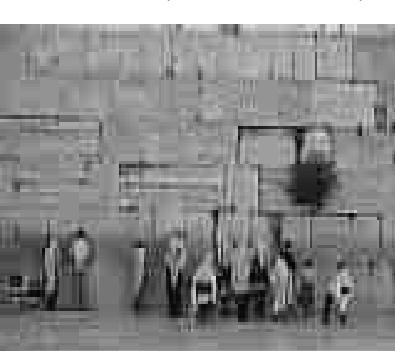
Tzom Gidalyah: Thursday, October 6

Yom Kippur: Wed. evening Oct. 12 (Kol Nidre) & Thurs. Oct. 13

Laws & Reflections Relating

to Tisha B'av

Tisha B'av, the 9th of Av, is a 25 hour fast in the Jewish calendar which lasts from sundown to when the stars appear.



Sunday night. *Tisha B'av* is a time of sorrow and mourning over the destruction of the Second Temple and the exile of the Jewish people from the land of Israel. *Tisha B'av* is preceded by a three week period of national mourning beginning on the 17th of *Tammuz* when the walls of Jerusalem were breached by the Roman army.

Tisha B'av has historically been a day when tragedy has befallen the Jewish people. The *Talmud* lists five tragedies:

- ♦ On this day, the *meraglim* (spies) returned with a negative report after scouting out the land of Israel 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.

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.

In addition to the restriction against eating or drinking, we refrain from bathing, anointing, wearing leather shoes and marital relations. It is also customary to sit on low chairs such as mourners do. At night we read from *Megillat Eicha*, the Book of Lamentations, in the synagogue. After the Megilla reading at night and

High Holidays 2005

Succot thru Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah:
Mon. eve, Oct. 17 - Wed., October 26

after morning services on *Tisha B'av* day we recite kinot, elegies, regarding the destruction of the Temple and other tragedies that befell our people.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS IN THE MONTH OF AV:

Shabbat Nachamu – August 20: 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 20: The *Talmud* calls *Tu B'Av* one of the most joyous days of the Hebrew calendar. This was the day when the generation of the *midbar* stopped dying. When the Jewish people lived on their land, this day was an occasion for celebration of various events.

Tachanun is not said on this day.

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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).
- Hilchos Brachos (Laws of Blessings) class.
- Beginner Hebrew classes.
- The Millionaire 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 Jewish Russian immigrants and Rutgers students in New Brunswick. These activities help many people maintain their ties to Judaism, strengthen their Jewish background, and 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 four funds which help us achieve our goals as well.

The Joan Schick Educational Fund

The congregation has established the Joan Schick Educational Fund. This fund includes the Joan Schick Memorial Library. The fund is 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

This fund was 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.

Project Chesed Free Loan Fund

A free loan fund has been established by Mr. & Mrs. Zalman and Miriam Widofsky, in memory of their parents. This fund provides small, short term, interest free loans to individuals. If you know of anyone who could benefit from the fund, wish to make a donation, or inquire about a free loan, please call the synagogue.

Poile Zedek welcomes all who would like to become involved in our activities or help maintain them. Please call the synagogue office at (732) 545-6123 for more information.

Eruv Information

In order to utilize the New Brunswick eruv, you must check weekly on its status (whether it is functioning for that Shabbat) by calling the Eruv hotline: (732) 247-ERUV before Shabbat. If you want 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.

(Rabbi's message. Continued from page 1)

Eretz Yisrael. 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 all facets of *ahavat chesed*, loving kindness, 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'abavta lerayacha kamocha (Vayikra 19:18) - zeh klal gadol batorah" - "To love your fellow Jew as yourself is the most fundamental principle of the Torah."

In this bleak period in Israel's history with the impending threat of civil strife with Jew pitted against Jews, let us join together in brotherhood. Let us pray that the clash will be averted, and 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.

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of *Nashim*, covering marital and family law.

We are always happy to begin a new class so that our walls resound with Torah learning. Please let the Rabbi know if there is a topic which you would like to learn.

We will soon be sending information regarding seating for the High Holidays and our Yom Kippur appeal. Please look for it in the mail.

May you have an easy fast and a happy and healthy summer.

Danny Raity

Give your Judaic Books a new home

Jewish books or books of Jewish interest which are no longer being used can find a new home at Poile Zedek by donating them to the Joan Schick Memorial Library.

You can also make a donation to the Joan Schick Memorial Library in honor of or in memory of a particular individual and we will purchase books in your name. An inscription will be placed in the books.



An Affair To Remember



*A wedding... Bar/Bat Mitzvah... bris... a special moment in your life... in the lives of your family and friends.
A special ceremony held in a setting that will enhance the significance of the occasion...*

the magnificent sanctuary in our landmark synagogue. Twenty-five foot ceiling... beautiful stained glass windows... an aura of respect and sanctity...

Congregation Poile Zedek

Centrally located in New Brunswick, NJ, we are just two blocks from public transportation, major highways, and the New Brunswick Hyatt.

We also have a room for dinners and parties. Our rates for both are very reasonable — yet another way to enjoy your simcha!

Come and see for yourself why Congregation Poile Zedek is the place to hold your affair.

145 Neilson Street, New Brunswick

*Please call 732-545-6123 to arrange your affair.
In the Orthodox tradition.*

SHIDDUCH GROUP MEETING

The Young Israel of East Brunswick will be having their third monthly shidduch group meeting on Tuesday, August 23, promptly at 9:00 pm at the home of Bea Rosenbaum.

Please call Debbie Schaulewicz at 732-390-8760 to RSVP and to receive specific instructions.

Please bring a notebook and a pen to the meeting.

Good & Welfare

Mazel Tov

To the following upon their celebrations:

Engagements

Danny & Miriam Ravitz on the engagement of their son Shmueli to Devora Guttes of Los Angeles, California.

Michael & Judi Seidemann on the engagement of their grandson Nachum Ettlinger to Brocha Leah Adler.

Refuah Shelaima

A speedy and complete recovery to the following:

Harry & Bea Einstein, Pearl Friedkin, Miriam Goldman, Freda Gordon, Yehudit Mitchell, Baruch Savitt, Ellen Schick, and Renee Silverstein.

Condolences

To Golda Perlman upon the loss of her beloved husband, Shimon.

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

Yahrzeits

Av 5765 - August/September 2005

4 Av August 9

Mark BerkowitzEva Berkowitz
Robert BerkowitzEva Berkowitz
Bernard IsraelAunt Sadie

15 Av August 20

Harvey Lederfather
Steven Lederfather

18 Av August 23

Lyudmila Ivanova..grandmother, Malka Tzikerman

19 Av August 24

Marvin Marantzbrother Morris
Edith Schwartzbrother Morris

25 Av August 30

Joan Israel.....Aunt Milli

28 Av September 2

Sophia Mezhibovsky....Esther Mezhibovsky

30 Av September 4

Sylvia Margolis.....father

Elul 5765 - September/October 2005

1 Elul September 5

Mark Berkowitzfather, Samuel
Robert Berkowitz ..father, Samuel
Rhonda Jasper.....father

7 Elul September 11

Mark Berkowitzmother, Sandra
Robert Berkowitz.....mother, Sandra

9 Elul September 13

Marvin Marantzbrother Herman
Norman Mironovmother
Charles Mironovmother
Edith Schwartz.....brother, Herman

14 Elul September 18

Elizabeth Friedmanbrother Manny

16 Elul September 20

Henrietta Buckner mother

23 Elul September 27

Ron Greenbergmother
Ruth Grossmanfather
Joan IsraelAunt Hilda

24 Elul September 28

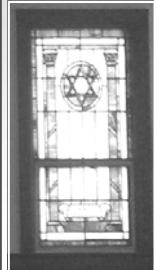
George Shrinermother, Runa

27 Elul October 1

Richard Bruskinmother, Bess
Stanley Bruskin.....mother, Bess
Miriam Goldmanmother, Jennie Klaus
Bernard Israelgrandmother, Esther
Bernice Weinblattmother, Jennie Klaus

A Loving Tribute

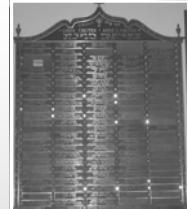
Memorial Windows



Memorialize your loved ones by dedicating a stained glass window in our beautiful sanctuary. We have a limited number of windows still available for this fitting tribute to the memory of a cherished family member. Each window is \$1500.

Memorial Plaques

Memorialize your loved ones by having their names listed on our bronze Memorial Boards in the sanctuary. A light will be illuminated on their yahrzeit dates. Each plaque is \$150.



Please call the synagogue at (732) 545-6123 to dedicate a window, order a plaque, or for more information.