



# The Poile Zedek Bulletin

March/April 2005  
145 Neilson Street, P.O. Box 166  
New Brunswick, NJ 08903

Adar II 5765  
Rabbi: Abraham J. Mykoff  
President: Mr. Danny Ravitz

“When *Adar* enters  
we increase our joy”



“משנכנס אדר  
מרבין בשמחה”

## THE RABBI’S MESSAGE

- על שלשה דברים העולם עומד, על התורה, ועל העבודה, ועל גמילות חסדים -  
“The world is based on three principles: Torah, Divine Worship, and Kindness” (*Pirkei Avot* 1:2). These three pillars of the world are applied in the observance of Purim.

The following *Mitzvot* are associated with Purim:

### I. TORAH

The reading of the Megilah twice, the night of Purim and on Purim day. The Megilah was composed by the *Anshei Knesset Hagidolah*, the Men of the Great Assembly. The Megilah was included in the Holy Writings in response to Esther’s & Mordechai’s petition. The Gemara relates that Esther requested: כתבוני לדורות - “Inscribe me into the Holy Writings.”

Although the name of G-d is not mentioned directly, we see G-d’s divine providence present throughout the Megilah. Like the Torah, the Megilah is written by a scribe on parchment with special ink and is treated as a Holy Scroll.

Interestingly, the Tractate Megilah contains not only the laws of the Megilah, but also the laws of the Torah, and includes a schedule of the Torah readings for all holidays and special occasions throughout the year.

### II. AVODAH

The reciting of “Al Hanissim” in the Amidah, the silent devotional, and in the *Birchat Hamazon*, the Grace After Meals. It is included in the blessing of “*Modim*” in which we give thanks to the Almighty.

The *Seudah* – partaking of a festive meal on Purim day. Purim and Chanukah are two of a series of holidays established by our sages, just prior to and during the period of the Second Temple, commemorating Hashem’s rescuing His beloved nation from impending danger. These holidays are contained in the book entitled “*Megilat Taanit*” which lists the dates and a description of the events of these holidays. When the Second Temple was destroyed, the Jewish nation began an extended period of national mourning. As a result, our sages canceled the celebration of these rabbinic-

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## THE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

### THE END OF AN ERA

Abraham Hann

1907-2005

We are saddened by the passing of our senior member, Abraham Hann, who was born in New Brunswick, 5 years after Poile Zedek was founded and was part of our shul ever since then. Abe had his Bar Mitzvah at Poile Zedek and came to services daily until the very end. He was a veteran member of the congregation and late in his life, when the need was there, became president to help secure the future of Poile Zedek. Until his recent accident, he was an active participant in the daily *minyan* and a strong supporter of the local, national, and international Jewish Community. He was a gentle soul with a good sense of humor and charm and will be sadly missed.

The Rabbi has recently purchased a number of Seforim for the Joan Schick Memorial Library. Please feel free to come and use the library. We would also be pleased to accept any donations for the library.

This year’s Purim Party, on Thursday, March 24, after Megilah reading, will be hosted by Dr. Ira Gang and Gail Alterman in honor of their son Joshua’s Bar Mitzvah. As always, Poile Zedek will be hosting a Purim Breakfast *Seudah* after the morning services which will include the Megilah reading and later a Purim Luncheon *Seudah* including an additional Megilah reading. Please see the Purim calendar on page 2 for times.

Our next membership meeting will be held March 27, at 9:30 a.m., for first nominations of officers. Elections will take place in May.

We will have a Wine and Cheese tasting and *Melava Malka* at the shul, Saturday evening, April 2, 8:30 p.m. Our first Wine and Cheese tasting, held the first night of *Selichot*, was well attended. Everyone who attended enjoyed the opportunity to mingle with friends and acquaintances while sampling the different wines and cheeses available.

A Freilichen Purim.

Danny

## Purim Schedule

<b>Thursday, March 24 - <i>Ta'anit Esther</i></b>		<b>י"ג אדר</b>
Fast begins	4:42 A.M.	Fast ends 7:00 P.M.
Shacharit		7:15 A.M.
Mincha		5:40 P.M.
Ma'ariv & Megilah reading		6:45 P.M.
followed by Community Purim Party - Live Music		
<b>Friday, March 25 - PURIM</b>		<b>י"ד אדר</b>
<i>Erev Shabbat Tzav</i>		
Shacharit		7:00 A.M.
Megilah Reading		8:00 A.M.
followed by Community Breakfast Seudah		
Megilah Reading & Community Luncheon Seudah		12:30 P.M.
Candle lighting & Mincha		5:55 P.M.
<b>Shabbos, March 26 - <i>Parshat Tzav</i></b>		<b>ט"ו אדר</b>
<i>Shushan Purim</i>		
Shacharit		9:00 A.M.
Shabbat Ends		7:06 P.M.
<b>Sunday, March 27 -</b>		<b>ט"ז אדר</b>
Shacharit		8:00 A.M.

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cal holidays with the exception of Purim and Chanukah, which were representative of all the other holidays. Chanukah represents the salvation of the Jewish nation from spiritual attack, while Purim represents Hashem's salvation from physical annihilation.

The Chafetz Chaim suggests that the reason that only Purim requires a festive meal is due to the fact that Purim represents the physical salvation of the Jewish nation. Chanukah, on the other hand, which commemorates the spiritual salvation, only contains spiritual acts - להודות ולהלל - To give thanks - *Al Hanisim*, to praise - the recitation of Hallel, and to light the Menorah.

### III. GEMILUT CHASADIM

Mishloach Manot – the sending of two types of ready to eat food items to at least one person. In the Book of Esther Haman describes the Jewish people as “scattered and dispersed” – our sages suggest that the lack of unity and harmony among the Jewish nation brought about the threat of annihilation through Haman’s diabolical plot. In order to merit Hashem’s grace, Esther, prior to her petitioning King Achashverosh, asks Mordechai to go “gather together the Jewish people.” With their unity and togetherness of purpose, Hashem would answer their petition. Thus, the act of *Mishloach Manot* is there to strengthen the bond of unity of the Jewish people.

Matanot L'evyonim – to give charity to at least two poor people. The Rambam, at the conclusion of the laws of Purim (*Mishne Torah* Chapter II:17), writes: “It is better for an individual to contribute more for *Matanot L'evyonim* than

make a more elaborate seudah or send *Mishloach Manot* to many friends and relatives, for there is no greater joy than to gladden the hearts of the poor and underprivileged. He who gladdens the hearts of the unfortunate, acts divinely.”  
The days and spirit of Purim shall never be nullified.

You can fulfill your obligation for *Matanot L'evyonim* by contributing to the Od Yosef Chai fund. These funds will be distributed in Israel on Purim day. Please see the Rabbi for details.

### The Four Special Torah Portions

During the month of Adar, we read four special Torah portions. The following is the schedule of the special *Parshiot* for this year.

- 1) Saturday, March 12th, *Parshat Pikudei*, **Shabbat Shekalim** (Exodus 30:11-16). In Temple days, during the month of Adar, they made a campaign to collect a half silver shekel from every male 20 years and older. (Shekalim I:1).
- 2) Saturday, March 19th, *Parshat Vayikra*, **Shabbat Zachor** (Duet. 25:17-19). On the Shabbat before Purim we read *Parshat Zachor*. All males have a biblical obligation to hear the Torah portion “*Zachor*” read in the synagogue. This portion recalls the unprovoked attack of the nation of Amalek upon the Jews in the desert. Haman was a descendent of Amalek. If one was not able to hear “*Zachor*” read on Shabbat, the obligation may be fulfilled by listening to the Torah reading of Purim day.
- 3) Saturday, April 2nd, *Parshat Shemini*, **Shabbat Para**, (Num. 19:1-22). The reading for *Parshat Para* describes the special waters derived from the Red Heifer used for the spiritual purification process in Temple days. This subject was important to remind Jews to maintain their spiritual purity or to purify themselves in order to be eligible to partake in the upcoming Passover offerings.
- 4) Saturday, April 9th, *Parshat Tazria*, **Shabbat Hachodesh** (Exodus 12:1-20). *Parshat Hachodesh* is read before *Rosh Chodesh Nissan*, which is the subject of that reading. It contains the first mitzvah given to the Jewish people while they were still in Egypt—the establishment of *Rosh Chodesh*. By declaring the new month, the Jewish people have the ability and responsibility to sanctify life and the passage of time.

### PLEASE RESERVE THE DATE

## Community Passover Seder

Second Seder, Sunday evening, April 24th



## 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 with your own private rabbi from Lakewood. Refreshments and *Ma'ariv* follow. Wednesday—8:10 P.M.

**English as a Second Language**— Mon-7:00 P.M. with Linda Greenberg.

**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.

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

## Celebrate at Poile Zedek

Are you planning a Wedding or Bar/Bat Mitzvah?

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

We also have a room for kiddushim, lunches 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.

## Your Contributions Count!

Your contributions to Poile Zedek help support the operation of the shul and enable Poile Zedek to provide vital services to our community.

Poile Zedek has four funds which help us achieve our goals.

### 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 Joan Schick Educational Fund

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

## 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) 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.

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING For FIRST NOMINATIONS

Sunday, March 27

9:30 am - in the vestry

**PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND**

## Please Join us Saturday, April 2 at 8:30 P.M. for a WINE & CHEESE Melava Malka



Wines from Baron Herzog, Bartenura, Teal Lake, Barkan.  
Cheeses from Lechevere, La Petite Fermiere, Monsey Dairy.

Lori Resnick, from Lori's Earth Friendly Products, Highland Park, will be happy to fill your cheese orders for Passover.

## 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 just 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, please contact the synagogue.

To make a donation or inquire about a free loan, please call the synagogue (732) 545-6123.

## Good & Welfare

### Mazel Tov

To the following upon their celebrations:

#### Births

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Senacal upon the birth of a grandson.  
Chaim and Sarah Shparber on the birth of a great grandson.

#### Bar/Bat Mitzvahs

Rabbi & Mrs. Mykoff on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Menashe.  
Dr. Ira Gang and Gail Alterman on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Joshua at Poile Zedek.  
Dr. Mark Goldring and Yaffa Schlisserman on the forthcoming Bar Mitzvah of their son, Ari.

#### Marriages

Rabbi Reuven & Chaya Drucker on the marriage of their son Yaakov to Baila Paretzky.

May they build a  
"Bayis Ne'eman B'Yisrael."

### Refuah Shelaima

A speedy and complete recovery to the following:

Mrs. Benchetrit, Bea Einstein, Ephraim Frankel, Pearl Friedkin, Miriam Goldman, Freda Gordon, Yehudit Mitchell, Baruch Savitt, Ellen Schick, Edith Schwartz, & Sima Svirsky.

### Condolences

The entire Congregation wishes to express their heart-felt condolences to the following families:

With saddened hearts, we mark the passing of Abraham Hann, our senior citizen, who was born in our congregation and at the age of 90 undertook the of Poile Zedek. He was a staunch of our daily minyan. He will be missed by the congregation.

*"May the Almighty console you among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem."*

### Yahrzeit

#### Yahrzeit Observance In a Leap Year

This year, being a Jewish leap year, we add an extra month—*Adar II*.

A *Yahrzeit* is observed on the anniversary of the date of the death. *Yahrzeit* observance for a person who died during *Adar* of a regular year is observed in *Adar I* of the leap year. It is customary, however, to also observe the *Yahrzeit* in *Adar II*. Please note the distinction between *Adar* and *Adar I*.

For a person who, died in *Adar I/II* of a leap year, the observance during a regular year is on the same

date in the month of *Adar*.

### Adar I 5765 - February/March 2005

#### 1 Adar I — February 10

Joan Sassenoff..... sister, Charlotte Brinstein

#### 4 Adar — February 13

Seymour Kamp..... your father, Philip

#### 5 Adar— February 14

Richard Friedman..... your mother  
Irene Bank..... father-in-law, Irving

#### 6 Adar — February 15 .....

Barbara & Stanley Bruskin son, Scott

#### 8 Adar— February 17

Seymour Kamp..... sister, Harriet

#### 8 Adar I — February 17

Sophia Mezhibovsky... Shlema Mezhibovsky

#### 9 Adar — February 18

Yelizaveta Zilber..... your father, Leonid

#### 10 Adar — February 19

Bobbi Rubin..... aunt, Sally Feldman  
Harry Schick..... aunt, Sally Feldman

#### 11 Adar — February 20

Ruth Frankel ..... mother, Dora Hoddeson

#### 12 Adar I — February 21

German Semenduyev.. father, Nuri Benshamil

#### 13 Adar I — February 22

Abraham Hann ..... brother, Thomas

#### 18 Adar— February 27

Freda Gordon..... husband  
Gerald Gordon..... father

#### 22 Adar I — March 3

Sophia Mezhibovsky... Shopsa Kleyner

#### 23 Adar — March 4

Ivan Saiff ..... mother

#### 24 Adar —March 5

Harvey Leder ..... mother  
Steven Leder ..... mother  
Bobbi Rubin..... mother, Joan Schick  
Harry Schick..... mother, Joan Schick  
Sarah Siegel..... mother  
Helen Solomon..... husband  
Helen Solowey.....grandmother, Rose Zimmerman

#### 25 Adar — March 6

Lorraine Smith..... brother

#### 27 Adar — March 8

Mark Morrison..... mother, Lillian Morrison  
Steve Salit .....grandfather, Abraham Bolotin

#### 29 Adar I — March 10

Richard Bruskin..... father, Theodore  
Stanley Bruskin ..... father, Theodore

**Adar II 5765 - March/April 2005**

**10 Adar II — March 21**

Pamela Kammer .....father, Gerald I. Bell

**24 Adar II — April 4**

Bernice Weinblatt .....father, Isadore Klaus

Miriam Goldman .....father, Isador Klaus

**29 Adar II — April 9**

Bobbi Rubin .....grandfather, Irving Buchbinder

Harry Schick .....grandfather, Irving Buchbinder

**Nissan 5765 - April/May 2005**

**1 Nissan — April 10**

Mollie Cohn.....Jack Cohen

**4 Nissan — April 13**

Mildred Tanzman .....mother, Dora Siegel

Helen Solowey .....father, Jacob Siegel

**5 Nissan — April 14**

Steven Salit .....grandmother

**6 Nissan — April 15**

Ruth Grossman..brother, Murray Greenberg

**7 Nissan — April 16**

Bruce Horowitz .....father

**11 Nissan — April 20**

Steven Salit .....father

Nathan Buckner .....first wife, Etta

Joan Israel .....father

**16 Nissan — April 25**

Harry Schick .....uncle, Robert Buchbinder

Bobbi Rubin .....uncle, Robert Buchbinder

**17 Nissan — April 26**

Nathan Buckner.....father, Hyman

**19 Nissan — April 28**

Joan Israel.....grandfather, Rabbi Alter Shaul

**20 Nissan — April 29**

Herbert Tanzman .....father, Max Tanzman

Robert Speis .....mother, Sarah Speis

**21 Nissan — April 31**

Bernard Israel.....uncle, Ben

**22 Nissan — May 1**

Nathan Buckner .....brother, Sam

**23 Nissan — May 2**

Helen Solowey ..... grandfather, Frank Zimmerman

**24 Nissan — May 3**

Myra Marantz ..... father

**26 Nissan — May 5**

Mark Morrison..... cousin, Marilyn Feldman

**27 Nissan — May 6** Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)

Ted Shegoski .....father, Abram

Ted Shegoski .....mother, Sala

Helene Shegoski.....mother, Regina

Helene Shegoski.....father, Markus

## Community Notices

Cong. Ohr Torah, 48 Edgemount Road, Edison, will be hosting "Prospects for Peace," on Tuesday, March 29, at 8:00 pm. This is the third in the "Israel in Depth" lecture series sponsored by the Federation's Israel Task Force. Featured speakers will be Kenneth Jacobson and Martin Raffel, noted scholars of international affairs in the Middle East.

Prior to the lecture, at 7:30 pm, there will be an Israel Task Force meeting. For information contact tseidler@jif-gmc.org or (732) 432-7711, ext. 15.

The Federation's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Walk for Israel will be held Sunday, April 10, 2005. To participate or for additional information contact Theresa Seidler at 732-432-7711 or visit [www.jewishmiddlesex.org](http://www.jewishmiddlesex.org).

"Paper Clips" is now showing for a limited engagement at Mega Movies at the Brunswick Square Shopping Mall in East Brunswick. "Paper Clips" is a remarkable documentary about a middle school class of students in a southern town in the mountains of Tennessee who decide to collect six million paper clips in order to grasp the concept of six million Holocaust victims. The film is rated "G."

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**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 yearzeit dates. Each plaque is \$150. Please call the synagogue at (732) 545-6123 to order a plaque or for more information.

**We Need *Your* E-Mail Address**

If you would like to receive the Poile Zedek bulletin by e-mail (it will still come by regular mail) or be notified by e-mail of important announcements (sometimes there is not enough time to mail a notice) please send your e-mail address to the synagogue: [congpoilezedek@juno.com](mailto:congpoilezedek@juno.com).

