



# KOL EZRAS ISRAEL



## Rabbi's Message

On Chanukah, we say the tefillah of Al Hanissim, both in Shemonah Esrei and in Birchas Hamazon. This Tefillah is primarily one of Hodaah, of expressing thanks to Hashem for those Nissim that were done for us during the time of Chanukah. In fact, the tefillah of Al Hanissim is recited in the Bracha of Modim in Shemonah Esrei, and Nodeh Lecha in Birchas Hamazon, which are both paragraphs of gratitude to Hashem.

Looking at what is written in Al Hanissim, we see gratitude for the miracles related to the war, and for reclaiming and restoring the service in the Beis Hamikdash, but we see no mention of the miracle of the Menorah. Rav Chaim Friedlander Zt'l explains, that to understand why this is so, we must first understand what Hodaah, gratitude, is. The concept of Hodaah, gratitude, is twofold; first one must acknowledge the good that was done for him, and only then can he follow with words of gratitude.

Of the many miracles that were done during Chanukah, the one that we all know about is the miracle involving the oil of the Menorah that was only enough for one day lasting for eight days. This was an obvious miracle and, therefore, one for which we will of course express our thanks to

Hashem. More challenging, though, is to recognize the hand of Hashem in occurrences that to the casual observer could seem natural. To come to this level of Hodaah, gratitude, to Hashem, we must first acknowledge that there was good that Hashem has done for us. Then, we can express our gratitude.

This is why Al Hanissim does not include the miracle of the Menorah. That is something that we will thank Hashem for on our own, because it is so obviously a miracle. The other miracles are ones that we must first think about and acknowledge, in order to bring us to properly express our gratitude.

The Gemarrah in Shabbos says that the eight days of Chanukah are set aside as days of Hallel and Hodaah, reciting Hallel and Al Hanissim. This is a festival to not only commemorate what Hashem did for us during the time of the Chashmonaim, but also to express gratitude for all that Hashem does for each of us every day. We must first acknowledge the gifts that we receive from Hashem; the gift of life, and each of the myriad gifts that we receive from Above, be it health, prosperity, or just a good day. We must appreciate them for what they are, a gift from Hashem, and not our due. Only then, can we follow with expressions of gratitude for all that we receive.

Eliezer Y. Kreiser

## President's Message

We had a successful High Holiday season once again this year. On behalf of the shul, I would like to thank all those who made this possible – Rabbi Kreiser, for his leadership, divrei Torah and davening, and arranging for a Ba'al Tokea; Larry Shor, our Chazan; Rachmil Jacobovits, the chair of our High Holiday Committee and our First Gabbai; and all those who assisted Rachmil in putting up and taking down the shul set-up at the Ring House.

On account of term limits, I am reaching the end of my presidency. We have reconstituted a nominating committee, with Norman Pollack graciously accepting this role once again. Please be responsive if he calls upon you – we encourage service to our shul. The election is scheduled to



take place around Pesach, as per established shul practice.

We also ask for your continued support of our daily minyanim, now in their tenth year at the Ring House. Sunday morning has become a challenge, because of increased competition from other shuls (and also, sadly, because of some losses in our community over the past year). We certainly wish those other shuls well, but that does place more pressure on our membership to make up the difference.

I look forward to writing my final column as president in the pre-Pesach edition of this newsletter.

Michael Richman

## It's Good to be Jew!

By Jerry Roschwalb

Emanuel Kant was not Jewish, but he produced a Jewish moral principle: If you don't do it, who should? Judaism offers many opportunities for communal responsibility. In Devorim, we learn from Moshe the mandate to care for the poor--stressed in different ways.

So on Purim we collect money for Mattan L'evyonim. And before Pesach we do the same with Maos Chitim. We ask our Rav to serve as our sheliach to use our donations to assist our less fortunate brethren.

There is also an obligation to our own Bet Hamedrish, our congregation. If we don't support, it who will? Thus it is a custom for men honored with an aliyah to respond to the "Mishaberach" for their families with a donation after Shabbat.

For a long a long time, the custom was to send in "Chai -\$18. (Obviously, the amount is entirely up to the honoree. But I recently learned from an Iranian shul member that in his homeland they did not favor Chai--18, but 26, the numerical sum of the name of Hashem.) I realized that with the help of inflation over the years, the expenses of the shul had risen while the value of Chai had markedly depreciated. Consequently, for each aliyah I get, I respond with a donation corresponding to the numerical

sum of the name of Hashem. But the important part is not how much one gives, but that we use these occasions to elevate their importance and help the sustain our shul.

There is another path to tzedaka. Several times each year we recite yizkor, and in every yizkor and kail moleh rachmim paragraph we agree to give tzedaka to elevate the souls of our departed family member. And when we have Yohrzeit, we not only say kaddish but traditionally exalt the soul of the departed by doing mitzvoh in their name and memory. Tzedaka is a universally accepted way to fulfill that mitzvah.

Others also perform tzedaka by creating occasions to make brochot (blessings) that would otherwise go unmade. That is why a bottle of schnapps and cookies at a weekday shacharis, sometimes a kiddish for the whole congregation on Shabbat, is a good way to cause brochot (and good cheer) in the name of the departed to be multiplied.



## Mazel Tov



On the birth of Orlee Chana Lefman, to parents Sarabeth & Jonathan Lefman, grandparents Roz & Sheldon Needle and brother Noam Shalom Lefman

Mark & Tamira Lautman, on the wedding of their son Daniel Amitai to Rachel Ariel

Cantor Robert & Gayna Kieval, on the birth of their first grandchild, Yehuda Aryeh (son of Moshe and Feigy)

Beatrice Welik, on the wedding of her granddaughter

Rose Glasner, on the appointment of her grandson David to be the Principal of a high school at the same location (on New York's Lower East Side) where Rose began her public school teaching career

## Condolences



To the Graff family on the loss of Ruth Graff / Rivka bat Yerachmiel HaKohen, mother of Stuart Graff and mother-in-law of June Graff

## Learning Schedule

- Shabbat mornings, Rabbi's shiur on the weekly **Parsha**, 8:15am at the shul. Open to all.
- Sunday mornings following Shacharis, Rabbi's **Talmud Class** at the Ring House (men only)
- **Wednesday Learning Nights** on Wednesdays at 9:00 pm at the shul (men only) (contact Rabbi Kreiser to confirm dates)

### Baruchim Habaim New Member

Charlotte Klein

**Are you receiving the weekly Ezras Israel e-mail update?**  
Davening times, upcoming events, and more! To subscribe, visit  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ezrasisrael>

### Yasher Koach



Terner z"l & Beril's mother Baila  
bas Nuta z"l

High Holiday set-up and clean up  
– Rachmil Jacobovits, Sheldon Needle,  
Aron Kreiser, Mark Chaimovich,  
Avi Chaimovich

Uri Fastovsky, on his birthday

Mark Lautman, on the upcoming  
wedding of his son Daniel Amitai to  
Rachel Ariel

High Holiday page turning – Stu  
Graff

Doreen Blech, on the yahzeit of her  
mother Rita Wacks / Rivka bas Zvi  
Hersh z"l

Sukkah set-up – Vahid Yahoodain,  
Mordechai Yahoodain, Uri Fastovsky,  
Jared Lempel et al.

June Graff, on the yahrzeit of her  
mother Rachel Mannheimer / Rachel  
bas Yaakov z"l

All those who bid in the Simchat To-  
rah auction

Sandra & Hadar Katz, on the birthday  
of their husband/father Gil

#### *For sponsoring a kiddush*

Jerry Roschwalb, on the yahrzeit of  
his mother Irene Roschwalb / Ita bas  
Tzvi Zev HaLevi

Beril Sinnreich & Selma Slater, in  
memory of their uncle/father Louis

Rachmil Jacobovits, on the yahrzeit of  
his mother Misie Devorah bas Moshe  
Dov

### Refua Sh'lema!

Jake Van Houter

## Shul News

#### Cemetery Spaces Available

Gan Zikaron (Garden of Remembrance) is a Jewish community owned and operated cemetery. Spaces are available in the section previously purchased by Ezras Israel Congregation of Rockville for \$1,900 each. You will have the benefit of a tax deduction. Please contact Morris Altschuler at (301) 770-5591 for further information and a tour of the site.

#### Sponsor a New Chumash

There are opportunities to sponsor a new Chumash for the shul - \$50 to sponsor a regular Stone Edition Chumash, and \$36 for a combined Stone Chumash/Siddur Travel Edition. Please contact Rachmil Jacobovits (see box below for contact information).

Gift Shop by Mordechai Yahoodain  
301.881.0647

Support Israel—buy Israeli products  
Skin care, jewelry, Judaica, and more.  
10% of profits go to Congregation  
Ezras Israel

Memorialize a loved one  
Donate a Machzor, Siddur or Chumash  
Call Rachmil at 301-770-4342 or 301-461-4984 or  
e-mail [milujaco@gmail.net](mailto:milujaco@gmail.net)

Donate to the  
Ezras Israel Hachnosat Orchim Fund to support the  
hospitality the Rabbi extends to the community.

For the holidays and all your  
special occasions, send  
personalized  
**Chesed Cards** and  
Help Ezras Israel at the same time  
Call June Graff 301.770.7129

**Celebrate a special occasion!**  
**Sponsor a Kiddush**  
Call **Odette Goldberg** - 301-468-0108 or by  
e-mail [odettegoldberg@gmail.com](mailto:odettegoldberg@gmail.com) or reserve online at  
[www.ezrasisrael.org](http://www.ezrasisrael.org)

# Kol Ezras Israel

**Congregation Ezras Israel  
P.O. Box 2281  
Rockville, MD 20847**

## Minyan Times

## Luach Hazmanim

Date	Day	Parsha - Chag - Event	Candle Lighting	Friday / Erev	Shabbat / Yom Tov	Shabbat / Yom Tov
1-Dec	Fri	Chanukah begins (1st candle)	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
4-Dec	Fri-Sat	Miketz - Mevorchim Tevet (Tue-Wed)	4:28	4:30	4:15	5:30
11-Dec	Fri-Sat	Vayigash	4:28	4:30	4:15	5:30
17-Dec	Fri	Fast of 10 Tevet (fast begins 5:55am, ends 5:32pm)	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
18-Dec	Fri-Sat	Vayechi	4:29	4:30	4:15	5:33
25-Dec	Fri-Sat	Shemot	4:33	4:35	4:20	5:36
1-Jan	Fri-Sat	Vaera - Mevorchim Shvat (Thu)	4:37	4:40	4:25	5:41
8-Jan	Fri-Sat	Bo	4:43	4:45	4:30	5:47
15-Jan	Fri-Sat	Beshalach	4:50	4:50	4:35	5:54
20-Jan	Fri-Sat	Tu B'Shvat	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
22-Jan	Fri-Sat	Yitro	4:58	5:00	4:45	6:01
29-Jan	Fri-Sat	Mishpatim - Mevorchim Adar I (Fri-Sat)	5:06	5:10	4:55	6:08
5-Feb	Mon	Terumah	5:14	5:15	5:00	6:16
12-Feb	Fri-Sat	Tetzaveh	5:22	5:25	5:10	6:23
19-Feb	Fri-Sat	Ki Tisa	5:30	5:30	5:15	6:31
26-Feb	Fri-Sat	Vayakhel	5:38	5:40	5:25	6:38
5-Mar	Fri-Sat	Pekudei - Shekalim - Mevorchim Adar 2 (Sun-Mon)	5:46	5:45	5:35	6:45
12-Mar	Fri-Sat	Vayikra	5:53	5:55	5:40	6:52
13-Mar	Sun	Daylight Savings begins	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
17-Mar	Thu	Taanit Esther (fast begins 5:58am, ends 7:57pm)	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
19-Mar	Fri-Sat	Tzav - Zachor	7:00	7:00	6:45	7:59
20-Mar	Sun	Purim	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
26-Mar	Fri-Sat	Shemini - Parah	7:07	7:05	6:50	8:06

Shabbat at Ezras Israel: Call 240-627-1661 for Eruv status.

Shacharit 9:00 a.m.

Mincha/Maariv

See above. Followed by Seudah Shlishit and Maariv

Sunday - Friday Shacharit at Ring House, Activity Room 3:

8:30 a.m. Followed by Rabbi's shir (men only)

8:05 a.m. (Also the time on Rosh Chodes & other weekdays with Torah readings)

Monday, Thursday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday  
8:15 a.m.