



KOL EZRAS ISRAEL



Rabbi's Message

We often read about successful people in the business or sports world and wonder what the secret to their success is. It invariably is connected to their passion, focus and discipline along with what some would consider a healthy dose of good luck. These individuals usually display a special talent in the areas of their success. In the few cases where the success is unexpected and cannot be explained, it is attributed to hidden or latent talent that rises to the fore. I would like to talk about an individual who was unusually successful in arena in which he did not display the talents one would consider essential for this endeavor

Rabbi Meir Shuster ZT"l who passed away on February 17 after a long and difficult illness was a legend in his own time. Reb Meir was most identified with the Kotel. The Kotel was and is the place which evokes so much emotion and stirs the Jewish soul. For many of our brethren this experience was ephemeral at best. However for the thousands who were fortunate enough to be engaged by Reb Meir, the experience became a springboard for a journey into the embrace of Torah Judaism. Reb Meir was a constant presence at the Kotel, as well the Central bus station, on the lookout, reaching out to so many of our brothers and sisters. Throughout the week he would engage the many back-

packers trying to get them to "taste the sweetness of Judaism" and he succeeded thousands of times. Friday nights at the Kotel one could see Reb Meir leading groups of young people from the Kotel to different host families in many different neighborhoods for a taste of Shabbos. His pitch, "would you like to experience a taste of Shabbos." To read about the tremendous impact this man had on so many, I strongly suggest visiting a website set up by his many admirers after he fell ill. The many heartfelt tributes in their own words will tell more than I can.

Reading the above one would expect that this was accomplished by someone who possessed much charisma and was the ultimate people's person. However, Reb Meir was none of the above. To quote from the many tributes to him "he didn't exude charisma, he was not a man of words, he hardly talked at all," hardly the ingredients for a successful career in sales. How was he able to earn the title the 'Man of the Wall'? The answer lies in one word, "Emes" (Truth). He was purveying our Torah, which is Emes. This, along with his total selflessness, his genuine care and concern for each individual member of Klal Yisroel, was the key to his success. If I may once again quote from the tributes "There was no Technique, No Magic. He was Total Emes, and the magnetic pull into his world of Emes was irresistible".

Yehi Zichro Baruch



President's Message

Climate change. It's controversial, it's divisive, it pits conservatives against liberals. It makes scientists out of politicians and politicians out of scientists. I am so confused about the issue that I don't know who is right, who is wrong, or maybe both sides are right. There is one thing I do know: as I write this we've passed a cumulative 18 inches of snow this winter, and besides playing havoc with our Eruv and Eruv checkers, I'm ready for some climate change right here, right now!

Climate isn't the only thing that is changing. A short tour around the White Flint and Twinbrook metro stations tells us that our area is in for a big redevelopment that has been in the plans about thirty years. Gone are stores and parking lots with which we've been familiar for decades. According to about.com, there will be about 9,800 new residential units in that area. No doubt some of those residents will be new to our area, and some of them will be interested in Ezras Israel.

One year ago I wrote a message expressing some concerns about attendance during services. At that time we just didn't have enough regulars to fill the need. What a difference one year makes. On shabbat, there is now a healthy קהל by the time of the Amida שמונה עשרה. At the Ring House, there has been a full daily minyan every day for the last decade. We've received calls from visitors from the New York and Baltimore areas who stay for shabbat or come for events. All this is happening even before the White Flint redevelopment is complete.

When new residents start moving into those buildings, we can safely assume that some of them will be looking for a synagogue like ours. When that happens, the synagogue's leadership will be sending out messages, newsletters, and even requests appropriate for a synagogue with significant growing pains!

Shul Growth & Building Expansion

Our neighborhood is growing and becoming more urbanized. In the above article, President Mark Lautman refers to this upcoming growth in reference to what we

Plan for Growth in our Eruv

Our Eruv area is set for a series of new development projects that will dramatically change the communities located along Rockville Pike north of Bethesda. The White Flint Sector Plan, approved recently by the Montgomery County Council, transforms large parking lots and suburban shopping centers into a mixed-use, compact urban center. The new White Flint will be developed with a network of sidewalks and streets to encourage people to leave their cars and walk. The plan won an award for best neighborhood/small area plan from the National Capital Area chapter of the American Planning Association.

The White Flint Sector Plan includes:

- 9,800 new homes, including affordable and workforce units
- 5.69 million square feet of commercial and office development
- an urban boulevard with a tree lined median, on-street parking, bike lanes, crosswalks and space for future bus rapid transit
- an elementary school, library and recreation center
- new parks and open spaces, including a civic green

Transportation Improvements

The White Flint Sector Plan establishes guidelines that include transportation and infrastructure improvements as well as upgrades to the White Flint Metro station. A major goal of the development in the White Flint area is to ease traffic congestion on Rockville Pike. Plans include \$601 million of targeted infrastructure enhancements to improve mobility throughout the area. The public transportation plans include establishing a dedicated center-lane for bus rapid transit, removal of the Metro turn-around at Grosvenor, and building a new north entrance to the White Flint Metro at Old Georgetown Road.

Major Development Projects

Pike and Rose (Mid-Pike Plaza) – One of the largest projects in the region, Pike & Rose will include 450,000 square feet of retail, more than 1 million square feet of office space, 1,500 residential units, a boutique hotel, an 8-screen movie theater, and a 250-seat performing arts venue. Read more about Pike & Rose.

White Flint Mall - The 45.3-acre White Flint Mall site will be dramatically redesigned and transformed into a complete community featuring residential, office, retail and public uses including a large central plaza, a 2.3 acre addition to the existing White Flint Neighborhood Park, and an elementary school site. A hotel is planned along Executive Boulevard, as well as offices. Residences are planned in a mix of mid-rise and high-rise multi-family buildings.

North Bethesda Market II –The building will be the tallest in Montgomery County at almost 300 feet tall and will include 400 luxury residences with 120,000 SF of retail and restaurants

and 150,000 SF of premier office space. It will be located adjacent to North Bethesda Market I which was built in 2010 featuring luxury residences, restaurants and retail space including the Whole Foods and LA Fitness.

North Bethesda Gateway – The mixed-use development, located just south of Nicholson Lane will include residential and non-residential space. More details to be announced as the project progresses.

Pike & Rose is a 24-acre mixed-use development and the first major project to break ground in the White Flint District of Rockville, Maryland since the approval of the White Flint master plan. It is one of the largest redevelopment projects in the Washington DC capital region. Currently under construction, Pike & Rose is a key component in the revitalization of this area along Rockville Pike. The project will create a street grid of apartments and office spaces with restaurants and shops at street level to produce the feel of city living. The development will be pedestrian friendly and located just three quarters of a mile from the White Flint Metro Station. The first phase of the project is projected to be completed in 2014.

Plans include:

- 450,000 square feet of retail
- 1.1 million square feet of LEED certified office space
- 1,500 residential units
- a 300-room boutique hotel
- More than 4,000 parking spaces
- an 8-screen iPic Theatre
- a 250-seat performing arts venue (an extension of Strathmore Music Center)

Rose Park, featuring a public gathering space for special events; as well as a series of intimate, outdoor rooms designed with original artwork and sculpture pieces.

Location: Pike & Rose is located on Rockville Pike, between Montrose Parkway and Old Georgetown Road in Montgomery County, approximately 7 miles northwest of downtown Washington DC. The property is a short walk from the White Flint Metro station and has good access to I-270 and I-495.

Located on the grounds that were previously known as Mid-Pike Plaza (and beyond), Pike & Rose will convert the existing shopping center and parking area into a bike-friendly, pedestrian shopping, working, and living areas. Green space is a key factor in the layout and design of the overall project. There will be two pedestrian plazas and many vegetated rooftops above the ground. Smaller parks will be included throughout the development and all areas will be linked by bike and walking paths.

Signed Leases as of Early 2014: iPic Theatres, Del Frisco's Grille, Stella Barra Pizzeria, Summer House, Protein Bar, Roti, ShopHouse Southeast Asian Kitchen, Tanzy, Salt Bar, Sport & Health, City Sports and Chipotle.

Shul Growth and Building Expansion (cont.)

must do to ensure that we are prepared for the growth. Please see the two columns to the left to see just how much change and urbanization we are in for. The challenge for the shul's leaders and our members is how to plan and prepare our shul's physical plant for what we hope and expect is the addition of nearly ten thousand new households in and around our *eruv*. Even without this new growth, there is many a Shabbat when we wished that at least our children had larger facilities for play and programming. Without a doubt, we would need to address children's facilities as a first priority if we want to make our shul inviting and welcoming to young families with children. I would like to hear from parents of young children on the kinds of changes and improvements we should be pursuing.

The leadership of the congregation has been reluctant to undertake major expansion plans in the past unless membership grew. With the growth of the community expected in the next decade perhaps time has come to invest in the future and expand our physical facilities to make sure we attract new members as they move into this neighborhood. I would like to especially hear from our young couples and families with young children on the kind of facilities they'd like to see in the shul. I am focusing this on young families because these plans will first most likely benefit them and their growing families. While we have seed capital to begin building, we do not have enough to complete and a mortgage will likely be required. In addition, higher operating expenses will come with expanded facilities and those expenses will be borne by future member's dues and building fund contributions.

I would like to encourage everyone, and especially our recently marrieds and young families, to focus on the future of the shul as a way to think about their own family's future needs, and participate in shul activities, governance and plans for growth.

Please let me and the Board know your priorities in how you would like to see the shul grow, take advantage of the planned developments and growth in our *eruv* and find ways to get involved to bring these changes. Please get involved in shaping the shul's future and with G-d's help we will see a shul expansion that we can all be proud of to use and enjoy and share with the newcomers to our area. Please

send me e-mails with your comments at milujaco@gmail.com Rachmil

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)

Baruchim Habaim

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>



Mazel Tov !

- Jonathan & Laurence Abecassis on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Elie.
- Zev & Shana Katz on the birth of their daughter Leah
- Mark and Tamira Lautman on the engagement of their son Jonathan to Sally Hammer of New Jersey

Hold the Date!

- Yom Ha'Atzmaut & Mother's Day Aouting & Picnic—May 11, 2014 4PM
- Women's Rosh Chodesh gathering—May 18—8PM at the shul: Topic Sivan and baking challot

Farewell להתראות

Ira & Miriam Gross moving to Baltimore

Yasher Koach!



- Nechama & Michael Fellner for organizing the children's Hannukah party.
- Sheldon & Roz Needle for organizing the Patron's Dinner
- Judy Lowitz for being the food sponsor, and Rachmil Jacobovits & Mark Lautman for co-sponsoring the Shul Melave Malka remaining expenses
- Shana Katz and June Graff for hosting the women's Rosh Chodesh Kislev & Adar 1, respectively, meetings.
- Golan & Inbar Ben-Nun for sponsoring a shul dinner in observance the Shloshim Commemoration for Yakov Ben David (A"H) - Golan's father .
- Jeremy Jacobson for providing a new

havdala candle from Israel

For sponsoring a kiddush

- Jonathan & Laurence Abecassis in celebration of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Elie.
- Jerry Roschwalb & Rachmil Jacobovits to commemorate their respective mothers' yahrzeits. Jerry's: Ita bas Tzvi Zev Halevi (A"H) on Rosh Chodesh Kislev and Rachmil's: Misie Devorah bas Moshe Dov (A"H) on 6 Kislev.
- Golan Ben-Nun & Inbar Friedrich Ben-Nun for being two years in the shul.
- Yahoodain family in honor of the recent wedding of Vahid and Rena.
- Jerry Roschwalb to commemorate the

Tevet 8 yahrzeit of his father Shmuel Zaniel ben Yaakov (z"l) .

Rachmil & Agi Jacobovits to celebrate their 37th wedding anniversary.

- Cyrille & Helit Cohen in honor Noa's 15th birthday and Helit past birthday (last month).

- Yoram & Shoshana Bar-Noy - as a farewell celebration for their son's Eran returning to live in Israel.

- Jerry Roschwalb to commemorate the yahrzeit for his wife Suzanne (Chana Liebe (A"H) on Adar 3

Refuah Sheleima

Norm Pollack, Helit Cohen

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 Sefer to our growing Torah Library

There are opportunities to sponsor new sformim for the shul - from a \$65 donation to sponsor a regular Stone Edition Chumash, and \$50 for a new Art Scroll Siddur to a set of Mishnayot or a full Shas, for a small premium above costs. Interested in other sformim sponsorship? Ask Rabbi Kreiser or contact Rachmil.301-461-4984

Condolences

-Golan & Inbar Ben-Nun on the passing of his sfather for Yakov Ben David (A"H)



Memorialize a loved one with a Memorial Plaque or by Donating a Machzor, Siddur or Chumash
Call Rachmil at 301-770-4342 or 301-461-4984 or e-mail milujaco@gmail.com

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 Rachmil Jacobovits or by e-mail milujaco@gmail.com or reserve online at www.ezrasisrael.org

Date	Day	Parsha - Chag - Event	Candle Lighting	Friday / Erev Yom Tov / Mincha	Latest Shema AM	Shabbat / Yom Tov Mincha	Shabbat / Yom Tov Ends
7-8 Mar	Fri-Sat	Vayikra	5:49	5:50	9:25	5:35	6:54
13-Mar	Th	Tanit Esther/Fast of Esther (Fast begins 6:04A, Ends 7:54P)	Xxxx	Xxx	9:41	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
14-15 Mar	Fri-Sat	Tzav—Shabbat Zachor (Maariv/Megila Sat Nite 8:45PM)	6:56	6:55	9:39	6:40	8:02
16-Mar	Sun	Purim (Shaharath @ Ring House 7AM, Mincha 4PM)	Xxxx	Xxx	9:38	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
21-22 Mar	Fri-Sat	Shemini (Shabat Parah)	7:03	7:05	9:33	6:50	8:09
28-29 Mar	Fri-Sat	Tazri'a (Shabat Hachodesh) Mevorchim Nisan (R'Ch? Tue)	7:10	7:10	9:25	7:00	8:15
4-5 Apr	Fri-Sat	Metzora	7:17	7:15	9:18	7:05	8:21
11-12 Apr	Fri-Sat	Acharei Mote (Shabat Hagadol)	7:23	7:25	9:11	7:15	8:27
14-15 Apr	Mon-Tue	Pesach Day 1 (Mon, Eat Hametz NLT 10:29A, Burn it by 11:51A)	7:26	7:30	9:08	7:35	8:26
15-16 Apr	Tue-Wed	Pesach Day 2 (No Food Preparation for Day 2—Before 8:29P)	8:29	7:35	9:08	7:40	8:31
18-19 Apr	Fri-Sat	Shabbat Third Day Chol Hamoed	7:30	7:30	9:04	7:20	8:34
20-21 Apr	Sun-Mon	Pesach Seventh Day (No Food Prep for Day 2 before 8:34P)	7:32	7:35	9:02	7:40	8:34
21-22 Apr	Mon-Tue	Pesach Eight Day—Yizkor (approx. 10:45AM)	8:34	7:35	9:01	7:50	8:35
25-26 Apr	Fri-Sat	Kedoshim - Mevorchim Iyar (Rosh Chodesh—Wed&Thu)	7:37	7:35	8:58	7:25	8:43
2-3 May	Fri-Sat	Eivor	7:44	7:45	8:52	7:35	8:50
9-10 May	Fri-Sat	Be-Har	7:50	7:50	8:46	7:40	9:01
16-17 May	Fri-Sat	Be-Chukkotai	7:57	7:55	8:42	7:45	9:04
23-24 May	Fri-Sat	Bamidbar—Mevorchim Sivan (Rosh Chodesh—Fri)	8:03	8:05	8:38	7:55	9:12
30-31 May	Fri-Sat	Nasso	8:08	8:10	8:35	8:00	9:15
3-4 Jun	Tue-Wed	Shavouth Day 1 (Tikun L'eil Shavouth Midnight until ...)	8:11	8:15	8:34	8:20	9:22
4-5 Jun	Wed-Th	Shavouth Day 2 -No Food prep for Day 2 before 9:27, Yizkor 10:45A After 9:27	8:40	8:40	8:34	8:20	9:22
6-7 Jun	Fri-Sat	Be-Ha'alotcha	8:13	8:15	8:34	8:05	9:22
13-14 Jun	Fri-Sat	Shelach	8:17	8:15	8:33	8:10	9:26
20-21 Jun	Fri-Sat	Korach Mevorchim Tamuz (Rosh Chodesh—Fri & Sat)	8:19	8:20	8:34	8:10	9:29
27-28 Jun	Fri-Sat	Chukat—Rosh Chodesh Tamuz	8:20	8:20	8:36	8:10	9:30

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
 Mincha minyan—same location—4:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday
 Sunday – Friday Shacharit at Ring House, Activity Room 3:
 8:30 a.m. Followed by Rabbi's shur (men only)

Kol Ezras Israel

Congregation Ezras Israel
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