



KOL EZRAS ISRAEL



Rabbi's Message

The end of the first Mishna in Me-seches Pe"ah which we recite everyday after Birchas Hatorah says "אלו דברים שאדם אוכל פירותיהם בעולם הזה - והקרו קיימת לו לעולם הבא - נאלו הן - כבוד אב ואם - וגמילות חסדים וכו' ."

" These are the precepts for which a person enjoys the fruits in this world but the principal remains for the world to come" .

The Mishnah then goes on to list those Mitzvos . Amongst them are honoring ones parents and engaging in specific acts of kindness . The Rambam (Maimonides ,) in his commentary to the Mishnah explains the Mishnahs reference to receiving reward in this world and the next refers to Mitzvos Bain Odom L"Chaveiro (between man and his fellow man) . The

Rambam explains that when one performs these Mitzvos (Honoring parents , Chesed , Bikur Cholim) ,his reward is assured for the World To Come. The reward that he enjoys in this world is two-fold. His positive interactions with others engender their goodwill thus enhancing his own life. Besides for the goodwill it engenders, his actions set an example for others to follow and as a consequence the world around him becomes a better place. Thus not only has he enhanced his own life, but he has made a difference in the life of others as well . We tend to think that in order to make a positive difference in this world, we must do things on a grand scale. We can all make a difference in this world, one person, and one good deed at a time; in each of our daily interactions. When we engage in acts of chessed, not only are we making a better world for ourselves, we are also performing a mitzvah; a win/win proposition.

Eliezer Kreiser



President's Message

Dear Members and Friends of Ezras Israel

I would like to recap our progress over the past year as well as remaining challenges.

What we have always done well - Our members have always been willing and gracious hosts to out of town visitors. This practice continues.

Personal counseling - while this is not the Rabbi's job, he does it willingly and with compassion as needed.

Life cycle events - Ezras Israel is always ready and able to meet life cycle events.

Children's playroom - It has been made into a clean, beautiful kid friendly room enjoyed by both parents and the kids.

More lectures - We have maintained a steady stream of illuminating lectures on a variety of fascination topics including the Maharal, Baal Shemtov , anti-Semitism, ashrei prayer and more led by outstanding speakers.

Shabbat dinners - We have instituted quarterly shabbat dinners so the community can get together socially more often.

Effective Board - None of this would be possible without our outstanding Board of Directors that works well together on ideas, promotion and project management.

Stronger minyan on Friday night - more people are attending so we have avoided missing Friday night minyan.

More resources for torah reading - we are avoiding some of the crises for shabbat torah reading thanks to suggestions from Mark Lautman for better coordination between potential readers.

Notwithstanding all of the above positives, we still have a net loss In the number of dues-paying members due to an aging membership, move aways, and competition from local shuls. I encourage everyone who enjoys and benefits of having the shul and Rabbi available when they are needed to fill out a membership application and arrange to pay dues. Our shul has a very accommodating policy for financial hardship and extends every courtesy to make it possible for participants to formally affiliate with the Congregation. At the very least, and at very little cost (if financial hardship is a personal concern) this would show your appreciation for the work of Rabbi Kreiser and the many hours of volunteer work performed by lay leaders and fellow congregants who give of themselves to sustain the community.

All of us should be alert to encouraging everyone we can to try us out and get a flavor of the unique environment we offer.

Happy summer to everyone!

Reflections on a Recent Bar-Mitzvah

By Michael Richman

On Shavuos, we celebrated the Bar-Mitzvah of Aron Gedalia Kreiser, the son of Rabbi Eliezer and Perel Kreiser. This event has meanings on a number of different levels.

First, there is the Bar-Mitzvah himself. He is someone it is difficult not to like. Moreover, he has been a great asset to the shul over the years. As Sheldon Needle pointed out, Aron has been available to help as needed to do that which needs to be done, from setting up the Ring House for High Holiday services to the construction and de-construction of the Sukkah. If we went so far as to say that the shul could not function without him, we would be exaggerating, but not by much (something which can be said about many others in our congregation – that is the nature of a small shul). (In the interests of full disclosure, we should admit to some bias here – Aron is one of our 11 favorite Kreisers.) Sheldon also pointed out that Aron came to our community when he was four months old (also around the time Sheldon graduated high school – or so he claimed). This means that he has literally grown up as part of our congregation. For this reason, celebrating his Bar-Mitzvah with the Kreisers felt very much like family. Second, the occasion brings to mind a member of the Kreiser family who has never been to Ezras Israel, or probably even in Rockville, but who is very much a presence in our congregation. That is Rav Aron Gedalia Kreiser z"l, the father of Rabbi Eliezer Kreiser, for whom the Bar-Mitzvah was named. He was mentioned many times just over the weekend of the Bar-Mitzvah, during the younger Rabbi Kreiser's divrei Torah and the Shavuos evening class. The senior Rabbi Kreiser's life story – growing up in poverty in pre-war Poland and leaving Lithuania as part of the Mir Yeshiva, to spend the war in Shanghai – and his observations, about Yiddishkeit and other matters, are very much a part of the younger Rabbi Kreiser's outlook, and have become very much a part of us as well. The Bar-Mitzvah of the younger Aron Gedalia Kreiser is symbolic of how our congregation is a part of the legacy of a Holocaust survivor who made his way to the United States and devoted his life to teaching and promoting traditional Jewish learning.

On the Shabbat before Shavuos, Rabbi Kreiser, speaking about the census of the Jewish people in Parsha Bamidbar, quoted the following pasuk - "Monei mispar la-kochavim, l'chulam sheymot yikra" – "He numbers the stars, and knows each of them by name." This means, said Rabbi Kreiser, that each star has an important role in creation, and G-D knows what that is. Just as it is with the stars, Rabbi Kreiser explained, so it is with the Jewish people, which is why it was important to take the census of each member of the community. And what we know about the two Aron Gedalia Kreisers helps to demonstrate this point – how each individual plays a unique role and makes a unique contribution to the world.

In Memoriam Rabbi Oscar Groner (z"l) (1922-2001)

(On the occasion of the 10th Yahrzeit of Rabbi Oscar Groner (Rav Usher Ben Matsiyahoo) the 22nd of Av we reprint Rachmi Jacobovits words spoken at the Ring House sheloshim service on 9/11/2001)

It is fitting that our shloshim memorial service should take place in this room – the location of our daily for the past 18 months. You see, because after many years of helping our shul grow and develop, culminating in a sense with allowing himself to be submitted to being the shul's honoree at our second annual dinner, it is exactly the day after the dinner that we started coming to this room for our then new daily minyan service. And Oscar was one of the minyan's strong supporters. He was here because we needed him: to help make a minyan or occasionally to because we needed a Torah reader.

I wrote in Kol Ezras Israel, our shul newsletter (which incidentally Oscar & Judy named in a naming contest) that Oscar did not consider the practice of Judaism and Yiddishkeit in all its forms as a "spectator sport." In becoming a Rabbi, and selecting a life-long career at Hillel, and in "retirement" helping the UJA Rabbinical Board, leading the singles service and working for our shul in as many capacities as he knew how, demonstrated that his approach to Jewish continuity and renewal was a full immersion process – a very hands-on participatory, roll up your sleeves and doing what institutions, causes and people need to have done. There was not a trace of ego, or pursuit kavod that is a sometime hazard of people that achieve a certain distinction and a certain following. Not only were these traits not in Oscar's make-up, they were anathema to him. When Rabbi Weinblatt at one of the shiva minyans at Judy's house said that Oscar loved the Jewish People, and even most Jews. His qualifier "most Jews" I think applied to exclude those that postured a bit too much for ego or Kavod – Oscar had a hard time with people and especially rabbis and Jewish leaders that had succumbed to these hazards.

All this is by way of introduction to what I really wanted to say tonight. A few years ago, in a happier time at Rabbi Groner's 75th birthday celebration at the DC JCC Jonathan gave me my first chance to speak of my admiration and affection for his father. I must have surprised Oscar because I called him a Tzaddik Nistor – hidden Tzadik, and in the light hearted mood of the day I urged to "come out of the closet" and let himself admit and believe the many wonderful things he had done for Jewish continuity and for our Jewish community. But obviously he had none of that. And I am glad for our shul that he always marched to the beat of his own internal inner drummer. That's why it took me so long – from Pesach to Yom Kippur to convince him that he should allow himself to be our 2nd Annual Dinner honoree. And it was wonderful, I got my surreptitious wish to show Oscar just how beloved he was and he got his wish to help the shul in a

substantial way. But after all that, and especially all that, I still stand by my calling him a "Nistor." And this goes back to what Andy Van Houter so memorably said in his Bar Mitzvah speech last year. Andy spoke of all the people that helped him get ready for his Bar Mitzvah. How their "self-nulification" as Andy put it, their ability to sublimate their ego, to allow the mitzvah of helping him prepare for the Bar Mitzvah emerge. An insightful Bar Mitzvah boy is impressed, from his own personal experience, by selfless people who exhibit all that G-d asks of them, as Micah says "...what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love loving mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" And that is what Oscar did most of his life and that is why I called Oscar a Nistor. His walk on this earth was marked by a life of service to the Jewish people in a joyful way that never seemed a burden that might be more readily associated with one has taken on the burden of serving G-d and Am Israel. For Oscar the service to the Jewish people was never a burden because he truly lived the life he wanted "of walking humbly with his God" and serving the Jewish People. That we at Ezras Israel had the zchus to merit Oscar's attention and involvement in the last decade of his life is a true blessing from our Tzaddik Nistor - the "Rockviller Rebbe" as Josh called him in his Dinner Journal ad. That Oscar somehow saw the "the shul of his childhood" in our physically humble surroundings says more about Oscar and the affection he had for the Ezras Israel family than about our shul. As in the life of his true family, Oscar's passing with a "kiss from the Rebonah shel Olam" as Judy wrote in her recent comforting note to us, leaves a giant void in our Ezras Israel family. We are comforted by our wonderful memories of him, all that he did for us and the knowledge that as the Midrash Hagadol says "Hakodesh Boruchu takes nothing from the world until He puts something else in its place." May Hashem grant us the privilage of Oscar's insight into our shul to see what Oscar saw "in the shul of his childhood." Then the words of the Midrash Hagadol will have surely been fulfilled for the Ezras Israel family. I can think of no better legacy in memory of our beloved Rabbi Oscar Groner.

Jonathan, Judy please continue to stay close to us. We are partners in your mourning and we hope that you find comfort in knowing that we will carry on his work in the Ezras Israel corner of Oscar's life. May we all be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

High Holiday Letters will go out in the week after Tisha B'Av (7/29). Please respond generously in the variety of High Holiday opportunities to help the shul. The High Holiday program is one of the shul's main source of funds for the year. So participate as much as you can—renew your membership for 2012, if you have not already done so, buy seats, submit names for Yizkor Book and bid on RH & YK allyot.

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 7:30 pm at the shul (men only) (contact Rabbi Kreiser to confirm dates)

Baruchim Habaim

New Members: Jared and Tamar Lempel

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!

Leah Rosen and family on Tzachi's (Dr. Yitzhak Rosen) marriage to Dr. Aliza Leiser

Rabbi Eliezer and Perel Kreiser on their son's, Aron Gedaliah, Bar Mitzvah

Van Houter Family on Andy's graduation with honors from Seaton Hall Law school and beginning a job at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Benjamin & Naomi Beroukhim on Shiran's graduation from U. of Maryland and beginning a job at IBM

Rachmil & Agi Jacobovits on Tova's graduation from NIH Clinical Dietician Internship and beginning her nutrition counseling Career.

Yasher Koach!



Sarabeth Lefler for buying and redecorating the children's room..

Mark Lautman & Michael Richman & Dovid Kreiser for their hard work and extensive preparations to read the Torah beautifully on Shabbat.

Joanathan Abècassis for hours of work refurbishing the children's room carpeting.

Perel Kreiser and her family for the amazing Bar Mitzvah Lunch on Shavouth.

Mark Lautman for organizing the Google Torah reading Calendar.

Ilene Van Houter for sponsoring the second Ricky Van Houter Memorial Lecture.

For sponsoring a kiddush

Rachmi & Agi Jacobovits to commemorate his father's Shimon Ben Meier Kopel, z"l yahrzeit.

Yahoodain family in memory of Mordechai's mother, Motaram bat Kanoom z"l, and Mona's brother, Zechariah ben Zechariah z"l

Agi & Rachmil Jacobovits in memory of Agi's father, Itzhak Aharon ben David z"l

Rabbi & Perel Kreiser and her family in honor of Aron's Bar Mitzvah

Leah Rosen and family to celebrate Tzachi Rosen's Shabbat chattan & aufruf

Jonathan Abecassis in honor of Sheldon Needle

Mark Lautman in honor of his Kiddush Set-up partners: Nate Druckman, Jordan Grubic & Jeremy Jacobson

Sheldon Needle in commemoration of his father's yahrzeit Chaim Ben Yisrael Zalman Ha'Levi, z"l

Ben & Naomi Beroukhim in celebration of his new job and Sheran's Graduation from college.

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 \$50 donation to sponsor a regular Stone Edition Chumash, and \$36 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

High Holy Days

Community Memorial Service

Garden of Remembrance Memorial Park
Sadugor Gazebo in the Founders' Garden

Sunday, September 23, 2012
10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

You are invited to attend either of our two services led by community rabbis and cantors.

*For directions and other information, please visit
www.gardenofremembrance.org,
or call (301) 428-3000.*



Garden of Remembrance

GAN ZIKARON MEMORIAL PARK

Partner Agency of
The Jewish Federation
of Greater Washington

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 Judith Lowitz- 240-328-7648 or by
e-mail judithlowitz@hotmail.com or reserve online at
www.ezrasisrael.org

Date	Day	Parsha - Chag - Event	Candle Lighting	Friday / Yom Tov Mincha Ends	Shabbat / Yom Tov Ends
6-7 July	Fri-Sat	Balak	8:19*	7:00	8:10
8 July	Sun	17th of Tamuz Fast Day—Fast Begins 4:38 / Ends 9:11	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx
13-14 July	Fri-Sat	Pinchas (Mevorchim—Av—Rosh Chodesh Friday)	8:16*	7:00	8:05
20-21 July	Fri-Sat	Matos—Maasei	8:12*	7:00	8:00
27-28 July	Fri-Sat	Dvarim/ Shabbat Hazon—Erev Tisha B'Av—Fast Start 8:23	8:06*	7:00	7:00
29—July	Sun	Tisha B'Av—Shacharit 8:30AM/Mincha 4PM—Ring House Also Mincha@Shul 7:45P Fast Ends			9:08
3-4 August	Fri-Sat	V'etchanan	7:59*	7:00	7:45
10-11 August	Fri-Sat	Eikev (Mevorchim—Eivl)	7:51*	7:00	7:35
17-18 August	Fri-Sat	Re'eh (Rosh Chodesh Eivl)	7:42*	7:00	7:25
24-25 August	Fri-Sat	Shoftim	7:32*	7:00	7:15
31-1 Aug/Sept	Fri-Sat	Ki Teitzei	7:21*	7:00	7:05
7-8 Sep	Fri-Sat	Ki Tavo	7:10	7:00	6:50
14-15 Sep	Fri-Sat	Netzavim	6:59	7:00	6:45
16-17 Sep	Sun-Mon	First Day of Rosh Hashana (Food Prep for Day 2 only after 7:54)	6:56	6:55	6:55
17-18 Sep	Mon-Tue	Second Day of Rosh Hashana	After 7:54	6:50	6:50
19 Sep	Wed	Tzom (Fast of Gedaliah (Fast Begins 5:34—Ends 7:50)	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx
21-22 Sep	Fri-Sat	Vayelech (Shabbat Te'shuva Drasha 5:30 PM)	6:48	6:45	6:30
25-26 Sep	Tue-Wed	Yom Kipur	6:41	3:00	5:00
28-29 Sep	Fri-Sat	Hazinu	6:37	6:15	8:10

*Candle lighting is preferable at the time that the Ezras Israel Community Accepts Shabbos approx. 7:20PM in the summer

Shabbat at Ezras Israel: Call 240-627-1661 for Eruv status.
 Shacharit 9:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv
 Sunday - Friday Shacharit at Ring House, Activity Room 3:
 8:30 a.m. Followed by Rabbi's shiur (men only)
 8:05 a.m. (Also the time on Rosh Chodes & other weekdays with Torah readings)
 Monday, Thursday

Kol Ezras Israel

Congregation Ezras Israel
P.O. Box 2281
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