

# KOI Ezras Israel

Fall 2015 - סתיו תשע"ו - [www.ezrasisrael.org](http://www.ezrasisrael.org)



## Rabbi's Message

On Chanukah, we say the tefillah of Al Hanissim, both in Shemona 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 Shemona 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.



## President's Message

When I first started coming to Ezras Israel, approximately seven years ago, my wife Tamira asked me how I like it. "It's wonderful. The people there are very studious and observant, so there is room for me to grow.

They are also very friendly. The best part is that, even though I'm well into middle age, I'm one of the youngest people there!"

That was then, and this is now. The members are still studious, observant, and friendly, but at age 50-plus, I am far from being one of the youngest people at Ezras Israel. That is due to the amazing and heartening influx of younger faces that we have seen over the past few years. In addi-

tion, many of the senior members bring expanding

families for holidays or special occasions. It's a fair claim that seven years ago if someone would have said we will have four babies born into the synagogue within a year, the response would have been an unconvincing **השם**. All that has changed.

With such growth comes challenges. One of them is programming that is appropriate, particularly for the pre-bar/bat mitzvah crowd. The board is already working on an arrangement that will keep them engaged during the prayers. The other challenge is, of course, infrastructure that will keep both young and old safe and comfortable. Rachmil addresses that in his article on the next page. In addition, the board always welcomes suggestions for addressing this transformation that we all hope will continue for many years to come.

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# A Tribute to Beril Sinnreich (A”H) 1914-2015

(Remarks prepared for Kol Nidre Appeal -2015-5776. They were not delivered verbatim because on that night I chose to speak from the heart instead of read my prepared text.)

G’mar Chatima Tova!

I am Rachmil Jacobovits and on this Kol Nidre night, I have a confession to make: This year began on a tragic note because I, maybe all of us, lost a friend. Last year on Kol Nidre night I spoke about the importance in our lives of being CONNECTED to “Yidishekeit”—the faith of our mothers and fathers (traditional Judaism), whether we are from Poland or Iran, and on being of SERVICE to our community and our fellow man. In the last week we lost Beril Sinnreich—someone who, although 100 years old, exemplified both being CONNECTED and being of SERVICE. He was a friend to many of us, our daily Ring House daily minyan, our Shabbat & Chagim shul community, and to me personally.

Many years ago on a broadcast for the funeral of statesman I heard it said that one cannot call the death of someone 100 years old a “tragedy” because, however beloved, living to an old age—especially to be over one hundred—is itself a blessing. This is even more true when one is productive and contributing to the end, because that is a life of blessing and fulfillment. Beril was all of that because above all he was generous—generous with his kind words, his time, and with his money. That makes the loss that much more painful. He was truly an inspiration—not only to us who knew him in the last decade and half of his life, but in his prior community in Peekskill NY (where he was honored with a congregational dinner before he moved here), and to his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Beril was a Holocaust survivor. He survived four years in the Transnistria camps, where over 300,000 Jews died, including many of his relatives. He survived terrible ordeals: hunger, cold, back-breaking labor, and beatings. At one point, he told us, he was so exhausted that he volunteered to be shot rather than go out on one more work detail. Although he endured such hardships, G-d, in his mercy, spared him to rebuild a life of emunah/faith, with a family of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and (as his grandson Ari said at his funeral “from so few to many”) to serve as a role model and inspiration for them and for all of us. In the last decade and half of his life he was the mainstay of the Ring House minyan, coming early, helping set up, helping others (decades younger than he) put on their tefilin, staying late, putting a \$1 in the pushke every day and making friends

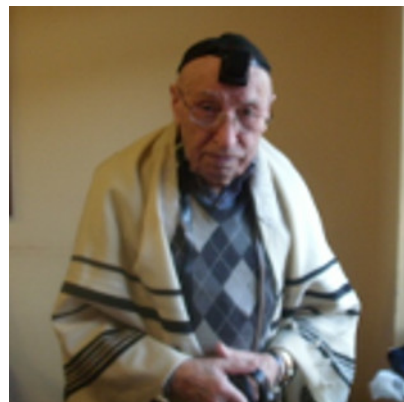
with everyone. Only after his beloved wife Klara died did he start to lose his will to live, and three months after she died he died. He defined his life as a life of service to others (including caring for his beloved Klara – his partner for 69 years), and a life of giving to his community; and in that generosity (as his daughter Yetti said at his funeral, “stingy with himself but generous to others”), and finding what others pay thousands to psychiatrists, spas and gyms to find: the definition of a happy life.

I am telling you this story on Kol Nidre night because Beril was such an inspiration and he served as a wonderful role model of tzedaka and chesed that all of us can emulate—by being generous and of service to others. Included in his generosity was the gift his family gave for our shul building expansion to celebrate Beril’s 100th birthday last Hannuka, the shul’s dedication of a Luach Board that will also be used in the expanded building. Other cash donations from his family to support building expansions have followed. Two or three others in the shul have since begun to add their donations to our campaign to raise \$500K.

But we need a shul full of Berils to make the expansion a reality. We need to enlarge our existing building at 803 Montrose Rd. so we can more comfortably accommodate our growing young families with children at Shabbat and chagim services. Our daily minyan and our High Holiday services will continue to be at the Ring House. On this Kol Nidre evening I’m asking you to be generous, like Beril and his family, and donate to our shul building expansion by finding one of over a hundred items available to dedicate in honor of an event in your life or in memory of loved one who meant so much to you. Whether you can afford to donate thousands or just a \$1 a day in the pushke, we thank you for your support, your participation in our services and being part of this this Ezras (meaning “Helping”) Israel Congregation.

May we all merit a life of health and good tidings, a happy life, of generosity and of service to others, and become, like Beril, an of inspiration to our loved ones.

I wish you all a G’Mar Chatim Tova!



Beril at his 100th Birthday Celebration at the Ring House

# Learning Schedule

Shabbat mornings—Rabbi's shiur on weekly parashah, 8:15 AM at the shul. Open to all.

Sunday mornings—Rabbi's talmud class, after shahris. Men only.

Wednesday evenings—Rabbi's shiur, 9:00 PM at the shul. Men only. Contact R. Kreiser for topic and to confirm learning is scheduled for a given week.

## Are you receiving the weekly Ezras Israel email?

Keep current with davening times, upcoming events, and more.  
To subscribe, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ezrasisrael>.

From: Ezras Israel Yahoo Group [ezrasisrael]

Subject: [Ezras Israel] Shabbat Bo at Ezras Israel

## Mazal Tov! מזל טוב!

Suzanne and Tom Triebwasser on the birth of a baby boy.

Vahid and Rena Yahoodain, and to the entire Yahoodain & Solyman families, on the birth of Lior Chaim זה הקטן גדול יהיה לior.

## Condolences תנחומים

The entire Sinnreich Family on the passing of their beloved father, grandfather, and great-grandmother Beril Sinnreich (ל"ז). We will always remember him as Reb Beril.

Yoram Bar-Noy on the passing of his father Mordechai Bar-Noy in Jerusalem (ל"ז).

Joseph Barras and Sheila Ochs on the passing of Masha Barras (ל"ז).



## Yashar Koach!

### יישר כוח!

### Kiddushim

- Golan and Inbar Ben Nun in celebration of their wedding anniversary (27th of Sivan), Inbar's birthday (7th of Tamuz), and Ori's birthday (17th of Sivan).
- Judy Groner in commemoration of Rabbi Oscar Groner's (Usher

ben Matisyahu) yahrzeit on 22 Av.

- Charlene Saportin and Mark Disler to commemorate the yahrzeit of Charlene's mother Chana Rochelle bat Esther.
- Rachmil Jacobovits in honor of Ron Unger's visit to our area.
- Meredith and Jonathan Schlaifer in honor of Sammy's (Shmuel Chaim) first birthday.

- Yahoodain and Solymani families in gratitude for a wonderful baby grandson.

### Tishrei Holidays

- Judy Lowitz for sponsoring the annual Simhat Torah dinner.
- Simchat Torah Auction participants/donors
- Our many generous contributors to our High Holiday Program
- Sukakh builders/removers

## Speedy Recovery רפואה שלמה

Norm Pollack

Rita Berlad (Chana bat Sarah)

David Lowitz (Judi's father) Dovid Aaron ben Rivka

## Save The Dates!

Children's Chanukkah Party, Sunday or Motzei Shabbat Chanukkah evening (December 12 or 13). For more information or to RSVP, send e-mail to Nechama nechamykitt@hotmail.com.

The annual Patron's Dinner is scheduled for December 20—time and venue to be announced. Don't miss this wonderful evening of great food, familiar faces, and a chance to support Ezras Israel.

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](http://www.ezrasisrael.org).

# Kol Ezras Israel

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

Date	Day	Parsh - Chag - Event	Candlelighting	Evening	Mincha Actual	Shema Latest	Shabbat Yom Tov Mincha	End Shabbat Yom Tov
Oct 09	Fri-Sat	Bereshit - Mevorchim Cheshvan	6:21 PM	6:20 PM	10:04 AM	6:05 PM	7:17 PM	
Oct 16	Fri-Sat	Noah	6:10 PM	6:10 PM	10:06 AM	5:55 PM	7:07 PM	
Oct 23	Fri-Sat	Lech-Lecha	6:01 PM	6:00 PM	10:09 AM	5:45 PM	6:59 PM	
Oct 30	Fri-Sat	Yavera	5:52 PM	5:50 PM	10:13 AM	5:35 PM	6:51 PM	
Nov 06	Fri-Sat	Chayei Sarah - Mevorchim Kisleiv	4:44 PM	4:45 PM	9:17 AM	4:30 PM	5:44 PM	
Nov 13	Fri-Sat	Toldot	4:38 PM	4:40 PM	9:21 AM	4:25 PM	5:39 PM	
Nov 20	Fri-Sat	Vayetzei	4:33 PM	4:35 PM	9:26 AM	4:20 PM	5:34 PM	
Nov 27	Fri-Sat	Vayishlach - Mevorchim Tevet	4:27 PM	4:25 PM	9:35 AM	4:10 PM	5:31 PM	
Dec 04	Fri-Sat	Vayeshev - Rosh Chodesh Tevet	4:28 PM	4:30 PM	9:39 AM	4:15 PM	5:30 PM	
Dec 11	Fri-Sat	Miketz	4:28 PM	4:30 PM	9:40 AM	4:15 PM	5:31 PM	
Dec 18	Fri-Sat	Vayigash	4:29 PM	4:30 PM	9:48 AM	4:15 PM	5:33 PM	
Dec 22	Tue	Fast Day 10 Tevet. Fast starts 5:58 AM, fast ends 5:35 PM.						
Dec 25	Fri-Sat	Vayehi	4:33 PM	4:35 PM	9:47 AM	4:20 PM	5:36 PM	
Jan 01	Fri-Sat	Shemot	4:38 PM	4:40 PM	9:49 AM	4:25 PM	5:41 PM	
Jan 08	Fri-Sat	Vaera	4:44 PM	4:45 PM	9:50 AM	4:30 PM	5:47 PM	
Jan 15	Fri-Sat	Bo	4:51 PM	4:50 PM	9:52 AM	4:35 PM	5:54 PM	

**Shabbat at Ezras Israel**  
 Eruv status: Call 240-627-1661 or Twitter @RNBervv. Shachrit 9:00 am; Mincha/Maariv as above, followed by seudah shlishit and Maariv.

## Yom Chol at King House, Activity Room 3

Sunday 8:30 AM followed by rabbi's shur (men only), Monday, Thursday, and other Torah reading days: 8:05 AM, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and other non-Torah reading days: 8:15 AM.