ויתס תשע"ז - all 2016 - all

www.ezrasisrael.org

Rabbi's Message A few years ago, Rabbi Warren Goldstein, Chief

Rabbi of South Africa, ini-

tiated a special Shabbos project in South Africa. It was called The Shabbos Project (theshabbosproject.org), featuring a communal Challah baking and a large communal Shabbos. That first Shabbos Project took place in South Africa with hundreds of women in many different neighborhoods and of different levels of observance baking Challah and celebrating Shabbos together. Jews from across the entire religious spectrum participated and all were urged to reach out to unaffiliated Jews and ask them to join in the activities. The purpose was to both give them an opportunity to experience

Shabbos as well to unify Klal Yisroel with thousands of South African Jews joining to participate in a special Shabbos experience. The project was a spectacular success and has since gone international. Many communities have done different variations of the Shabbos Project. We here at Ezras Israel participated in a small way two years ago. We had Friday night and Shabbos day meals at the shul with significant community participation. This year, Rabbi Goldstein reached out to the Vaad (Rabbinical Council of Greater Washington) and met with community rabbis and others to see if we can have a more robust Shabbos Project here in the greater Washington area. His enthusiasm was infectious and all unanimously agreed that despite the short time frame and various logistical challenges we would try to make this event happen.

This year, Shabbat Parshat Lech Lecha, November 11-12, we will Be'ezrat Hashem make that event happen. Here in Rockville, in conjunction with other shuls, we would like to have a communal Challah bake as well as a community Havdalah concert. Here at Ezras Israel we will Bezrat Hashem have both Friday night and Shabbat day meals together at

The Gemara in Shabbos says that "He who makes Shabbos a delight will merit a portion without boundaries." Shabbos is one of the pillars of Judaism, the bedrock of the Jewish People. It is testimony that the Almighty created the world in six days and rested from creation on the seventh. Observance of Shabbos is testimony to this fact. continued on page 2



led to the gas chambers, Jews would crv out Gedentk Yidden—Remember!"

Judaism is time possessed: we may energetically in the now, but we never forget where we come from and what we are com-

mitted to in the Atid—the future.

We recite the laments of Tisha b'Av, always recalling the glory of the destroyed Beit Hamigdash, but the dreamers of Zionism looked to the future in creating the State of Israel. And when we open the Musaf on Shabbat, we pray for the welfare of Israel, "the flowering of our redemption"—the promise of the Moshiach.

We are reading every Shabbat the final message of Moshe as he recounts every foolish behavior of his beloved people—and then instructs them in great detail how

It is told that as they would be **President's Message**

Hashem expects them to behave when they live in Eretz Yisroel. And Rabbi Keiser in his weekly D'var Torah always finds a moral or ethical lesson lesson in the parsha regarding how we can enhance our lives as children of Hashem.

But we know that in Judaism remembering the past is insufficient. We not only recall Amelek, the evil tribe that assaulted us on the way, we are directed to remember to destroy such evil.

Soon we will recite Yizkor, by definition a remembrance prayer for the departed. Not enough! At the end of every Yizkor and Moleh Rachamim paragraph, we promise to contribute to charity to honor those who have gone. It is not by chance that the Hebrew tenses huyah, hoveh, yihiyeh-past, present and future—feature the four letters of the unspoken name of Hashem.

With gratitude we have been granted and possess, the Board of Ezras Israel sends blessings for you and all whom you love for a new year replete with joy and good health.

Rabbi's message continued from previous page

As we approach Rosh Hashana, let us all join together to enhance our Shabbos experience, and to make Shabbos Parashas Lech Lecha a Shabbos of inspiration. Let it be a source of merit for a year of success, happiness and good health

Please stay tuned for more information and for opportunities to volunteer.

With Best Wishes for Ksiva V'Chasima Tova

Eruv News

We recently expanded the Eruv to include almost all new apartment construction between Rockville Pike and the train tracks. See map to the right.

There are more permanent subway/train track fences for our eastern most boundary, making that section easier to check and including many more new residents. This boundary shift cost the shul over \$2,600. We are very grateful for those who contributed to defray these costs, but we recovered less than half the cost of the expansion. Obviously, we welcome additional contributions to defray the full costs of the Eruv expansion. We are also seeking new volunteers to check sections of the Eruv so the weekly responsibility can be distributed among more people. In particular, having a larger group will help when the regular checkers are away or unable to check their assigned section. Training to be a checker takes only about an hour, and the weekly commitment is less than half an hour (depending how big your section is) to check a section. If you'd like to become an Eruv checker, please contact Rabbi Kreiser. Your rewards will be both physical (by way of exercise), spiritual (helping the community enjoy Shabbos), and chesed (enabling a parent to push a stroller, enabling someone to bring a meal to a friend or carry necessities to shul). It's a win-win for everyone involved.

Building Expansion News

On September 20 we had the first of the required public hearings to inform our neighbors of our plans. Our only non-shul member attendee was a representative of the neighborhood civic association. During that meeting we learned that the shul is viewed favorably by our neighbors, and we believe that our building expansion will engender little opposition. We are now beginning to start spending money for the initial permits. Our hope that the New Year will bring us additional support from the community for the funds needed to bring the building expansion into reality in the next year or so.

Mendele and Manny

by Mark Lautman

For many years, Mendele Levi was a regular ba'al tefilah and Torah reader at Ezras Israel. He and his wife lived on a modest income, raised their children dutifully in the ways of Torah, and maintained a strict kosher home. Mendele's reward for leading such an upright lifestyle were plenty. His children were all in respectable professions, his granchildren were already recognized as being ilui'im, and BH his upcoming retirement would be comfortable.



Volunteers Needed

Ezras Israel is sustained by many volunteer hours that a community like ours requires. From volunteering to take on Torah reading duties, Eruv checking, helping a new mother with meals for the family, providing hospitality for visitors on Shabbos, participating in shul administration, attending minyan during "sparse" vacation times, and the many other manifestations of chesed on which our community depends. With the New Year upon us, consider the opportunity to join the many others who are already engaged and contributing their time. If you have not been financially generous, within your means, especially if you have not paid dues, or not paid for High Holiday tickets, resolve to be more generous in the new year. Rabbi Kreiser reminds everyone that tzedakah, especially in your own back yard, with your time and money not only improves the community you live in, imbues it with a general sense of gratitude and well-being, and ultimately pays greater dividends in the lives of the giver in terms of health, prosperity and personal success. We wish you a Shana Tova full chesed and of personal fulfillment!

All that changed when Manny Rosenbaum walked in to Ezras Israel one fall Shabbos. Manny, an agent for high-profile chazzanim, could not believe Mendele's voice and accuracy when it came to being a sheliach tzibbur. "Mendele, I have an offer for you that you won't believe." (continued next time...)

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 Toy! מזל טוב!

Rachmil & Agi Jacobovits on the wedding of their daughter Tova to Jeremy Shein.

Michael & Nechama Fellner on the Bat Mitzvah of their Daughter Kayley.

Hillel & Naomi Adler on the birth of their baby boy.

Rabbi Eliezer and Perel Kreiser on the engagement and upcoming marriage of Tzirel Leah to Gedalva Ebstein.

Condolences תנחומים

Elsie Tromka, Barbara Blaustein, David Tromka, and Aaron Tromka on the passing of dear husband and father Jack Tromka.

Leonard Mordfin on the passing of his brother Gerald Mordfin.

Andra and Binyomin Fleishman on the passing of Andra's mother Marylin Tayler.



Yashar Koach!

Kiddushim

• Sheldon Needle and family in memory of his father's vahrzeit. Chaim Ben Yisrael Zalman (Herman Needle), who passed away on 5

Tammuz.

- !הוא לישר בוחן · Jerry Roschwalb in memory of his sister Esther Baileh bas Schmuel Zanvil.
 - Meredith and Jonathan Schlaifer to celebreate Samy's second birthday.
 - Ohad and Iris Etzion, Gil and Sandra Katz, and their families as

they say farewell and return to their homes and careers in Israel.

- Iudve Groner to commemorate Rabbi Oscar Groner's yahrzeit
- Nechama and Michael Fellner in honor of their daughter Kaylee Renee's Bat Mitzvah.
- Naomi and Hillel Adler in honor of the birth of their boy.

Welcome New **Members** ברוכים הבאים

Benyomin & Andra Fleishman Joseph Wolf Gordon Horowitz

Farewell

Gil & Sandra Katz and family returning to Israel for continued career success.

להתראות Marisa Roy, wishing her the best of luck as she moves to Arlington.

Speedy Recovery רפואה שלמה

Norm Pollack Laurence Abecassis

Memorialize a loved one with a Memorial Plague 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.

Kol Ezras Israel

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

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