



KOL EZRAS ISRAEL



Rabbi's Message

One of the main Mitzvos that we observe the night Pesach at the Seder is the reading of the Haggadah. Before relating the actual details of the story of the Jewish Nation going down to Mitzrayim and slavery, the Hagadda states מתחילה עובדי עבודה זרה -היי "In the beginning our forefathers were idol worshippers, and now Hashem has brought us closer to His service". As it is written in Yehoshua24;2;4, ואתן לעשו את הר שעיר -לרשת אותו -ויעקב ובניו, "Hashem gave Eisav Mount Seir as an inheritance, and Yaakov and his sons went down to Mitzrayim. This verse seems to imply that the mere fact of Yaakov and his sons descent to Mitzrayim is proof that Hashem brought us closer to His service. How is that ? The Maasei Hashem explains that the entire experience of the Jewish Nation in Mitzrayim, from the enslavement to the ten Maakos (plagues) and Krias Yam Suf (the splitting of the sea), was to enlighten the world to the existence of a Creator and Divine Providence. We, Klal Yisroel, were the vehicle through which the Almighty showed this to the world. The mira-

cles were performed for us and we did not experience or suffer from any of the Maakos. That is what is meant by "now G-d brought us closer to His service". The lesson for us to learn and internalize the night of the seder is to understand the uniqueness of the Jewish Nation and that which distinguishes us from others. Our role is Pirsum Elokus, publicizing the existence of Hashem and Divine Providence through Torah and Mitzva observance and our conduct. The night of the Seder, we are supposed to feel like royalty. But let us keep in mind the actual meaning and responsibility of that exalted status of being the Chosen Nation.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal Hakaras Hatov, gratitude, to all those who have participated in and contributed to the Building Campaign. We have made significant progress towards our goal. With continued and growing participation from all of our members and friends, in the near future, we will be able to realize our goal of constructing a beautiful Mikdash Me'at that will not only enhance and bring a new dimension to our shul experience, but will bring honor to the Almighty.

Chag Kasher VeSameach!



President's Message

At the opening of the play "Teahouse of the August Moon," the native says "Okinawa is strategic in location. So there are many wars. And wars cause much suffering, but suffering makes us wise--and wisdom makes life endurable."

Wisdom may be a universal value--but it entails special Jewish meaning. It celebrates an irreducible source. When we wake, we acknowledge: "raishes chachma" --wisdom inspired by aw of Hashem. We honor the "Talmud Chacham," a person imbued with Torah-based wisdom. Among certain Sephardim--the sage consulted is a learned "Chacham."

The achronim for a most enterprising Torah dedicated Chasidic organization is derived from "Chachmah, Binah, Daas." --wisdom, understanding, knowledge. As English has incorporated Yiddish terms, it considers the "mavin" as an expert. Expert perhaps, but more important, a person of understanding striving toward wisdom.

In the Parshas (or Sedras) we have chanted every Shabbat morning service, we learn significant levels of meaning beyond the basic "pshat." The people Hashem choses to create the instruments and sacred objects for the Mishkan--the initial Bait Hamikdosh--are not referred to as experts or "mavinim" Bezalel and Oholiab are chosen because they are "chacham

leiv",wise hearted. In the U.S, when we seek persons to serve as judges, we assume they possess legal expertise. What we looking is their capacity to look beyond cold fact legal text--why we remember the "Brandeis brief," to consider social and human elements in a case--in short to pursue wisdom to achieve justice.

At age 7 or 8, in my yeshiva class I was told that the Torah teaches that as the Bnai Yisroel traveled from Egypt to Canaan, Hashem guided them with an overhead cloud that protected and led them. We learn how Moses in angry frustration shattered the two stone tablets written by Hashem into pieces when he found the people worshipping the golden calf idol. Punishment and forgiveness over, and a new set of tablets ensconced in the ark of the Mishkan, Moses starts to lead the people forward. But the overhead cloud fails to move. Moses understands. He returns to the base of the mountain, gathers every smallest piece of the broken tablets and places them into the ark. Then the cloud begins to move the people on to their eternal destination-Eretz Yisroel.

But before all that we are taught a most significant lesson. The sanctuary, the Mishkan was built with the identical gift from every soul among the tribes. Every one had to feel and be apart of the house of worship wherein the spirit of Hashem resides. Today we are granted the same obligation, the same opportunity to build and enhance the synagogue, the Beit Hamedrish, we celebrate Hashem's gift of life--where every month we ask the blessing for the new month... (cont on next

(cont. from front page) and conclude "Kul Yisroel chaverim." Our strength is derived when we are unified, striving as one toward the same goal.

Whishing you a joyful & Kosher Pesach!

Building Expansion President's Message

Ezras Israel has a history similar to many of our sister traditional congregations. Founded by immigrants from Europe who cherished the freedom they found in America, they were dedicated to perpetuating for generations yet to come the essential values and wisdom inherent in a Torah founded life for individual Jews and the Jewish community.

Beginning in the Southeast of treh District, they moved initially with the community to the Northwest and finally to our present home in Rockville, where we have worshipped and celebrated for the past quarter century.

We now face a challenge and opportunity. We have added numerous young couples and are blessed with increasing number of children. We have added new programs and events but are restricted by limited space. Our resident architect, Golan Ben-Nun has creayed a beautiful expansion design. We lack only adequate funding. We have accumulated more than a third of the project's cost, and have reason to expect that if we can show more than half the cost in hand, there are foundations and charitable families prepared to cover much of the remaining costs when they realize our serious dedication to this project.

But we must act soon. We ask all who benefitted personally or from family and friends' experience, current or past, to join us in enhancing our own "Mishkan" and offer our congregation greater ability to serve. Your contributions now will prove to be an endorsement of the future of traditional Judaism.

Building Expansion Fundraising Status

In the first quarter of 2017 we have added approximately four thousand dollars in new contribution to our building expansion fund. Including a contribution from a lady in Florida who attended Ezras Israel Hebrew School in the nineteen forties taking lessons from Rabbi Bogner (A"Y) and Mrs. Edelstein.

We appreciate everyone's contributions, see insert on our plans and dedication opportunities, and we look forward to reaching out more broadly, possibly through a crowd-funding campaign.

Nechama Fellner's Thoughts on the prospect on serving on Ezras Israel Board

As the members get to cast their ballots for the new Board of Directors we have asked our first time candidate, Nechama Fellner, to tell us what she hopes her service will help achieve. We thank her for her continuing willingness to serve.

It is an honor to serve on the board at Ezras Israel. The warmth and energy at Ezras is wonderful. You feel it the moment you walk through our doors. 14 years later I still remember being welcomed with open arms and becoming an immediate part of the community. That feeling inspires me. I take pride in our Shabbos Club where kids enjoy stories, games, tefillah, Torah discussion, our famous Shabbos Party and of course, the prizes! I look forward to establishing new programs for our children, our community and some intergenerational as well. This will be equally exciting in our improved facilities. Am greatly looking forward to this!

PLAN A CUSTOM EXPERIENCE IN ISRAEL FOR YOUR FAMILY

By Elkana Bar-Ethan, a recent addition, along with his wife Ayala and his daughters, to the Ezras Israel community.



Team up with Authentic Israel to create a custom tour for your family, friends or loved ones. Whether you are coming as one traveler or as a party of many, we'll work with you to design a tailor-made itinerary and take care of all the details so that you can focus on the experience itself at your own pace and in your own way.

Crafting a custom itinerary means having the options and flexibility to experience the beauty, history and culture of Israel the way you've always wanted. When you partner with us, you can create an experience that:

- ◆ Fits your ideal travel dates
- ◆ Programmed according to your needs
- ◆ Includes private guiding & transportation
- ◆ Allows you to go at your own pace
- ◆ Is flexible enough to allow you to make adjustments along the way
- ◆ Gives you peace of mind to enjoy your experience

Each custom program is a blend of your needs and our expertise. Our proven process allows us to create a safe, enjoyable and memorable experience – from the first conversation to the welcome home call!

Contact us today to learn more about creating your own custom experience!

Email Elkana at elkana@authenticisrael.net or visit us online at

www.authenticisrael.com/customfamily

Ezras Israel Helps Israel

Ezras Israel, true to its name, is working to counteract BDS advocates by highlighting our members involvement to strengthen our bonds with Israel.

Our long term out of town member, Mayer Jacobovits is the General Manager of Israel Wine Direct (IWD), a company dedicated to selling high quality wines from boutique wineries in Israel. He and his partners import the high quality wine of these wineries and are selling them throughout the US. Please visit their web site and become acquainted with some of these products that some of the member of our shul have had the privilege to taste at embassy functions on Capitol Hill.

One of the kosher wineries (not all Israel wines carry a hechsher) featured by IWD is the Kishor Winery. Kishor is "located in the Kibutz Kishorit, a home for adults with special needs. The winery, Kishor, is an integral part of the community, employing five permanent workers from the Kibutz year round and hiring more for the intense harvest season. These employees host guests in the newly constructed, exquisite visitor's center, where one may sample, not only the wine grown at Kishor, but also the delicious cheeses, breads, cookies and cakes all made by the members of the community." See more at this link <http://www.israeliwinedirect.com/About-Us/Our-Wineries/Kishor>

IWD represents fourteen wineries with brands you probably never heard of such as: Agur, Kitron, Midbar, Ramot Naftaly, and of course Kishor, just to name the kosher wines IWD offers. IWD is part of the larger American-Israeli chamber of commerce effort to counteract BDS. See more: <http://www.buyisraelgoods.org/>



No one has to do it alone.
Someone who cares will always be here to help you with your funeral needs, in a supportive, caring way.



17 YEARS OF CARING SERVICE AND DEDICATED SUPPORT TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF GREATER WASHINGTON

Call Morris Alexander at Ezras Israel Congregation, (301)770-5591, or visit www.gardenofremembrance.org.



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)

Farewell: Gedalye & Esther Slone, moving to Silver Spring and Ben and Andra Fleishman moved to Wes Virginia.

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 !

Mazel Tov to the Kreiser Family and especially to Dovid Kreiser on his engagement to Miri Brodsky of Toronto!

Mazel Tov to the Kreiser Family and especially to Chani Kreiser on her engagement to Eliyahu Gurwitz of Brooklyn!

Yasher Koach!



- Matrk & Charlene Disler and Judy Lowitz for sponsoring the Purim celebration and Melave Malka after the evening Megillah reading.

- Rabbi & Perel Kreiser, Chani & Bat Sheva for preparing the community Purim seuda.

- Inbar Ben-Nun for organizing and running the women's Rosh Chodesh group meetings.

- For our Torah readers: Mark Lautman, almost weekly, and Michael Richman, Shivi Birnbaum and Larry Raigrodsky

- June Graff for her many years of running our Chesed & Mitzvah Card Program

For New Hot Water Dispenser

The Fellner Family is proudly providing the shul with a new Shabbos/Yom-Tov friendly hot water dispenser and continued assortment of teas/pareve hot chocolate/coffee/cider and enjoyable accoutrements. It is given in honor of the Fellner kids, who enjoy Shabbos teas/hot chocolate & marshmallows. It will give us naches for you to enjoy a cup when you come to our Shul! The new hot water dispenser will be inaugurated on Pesach, so coffee service will be available in shul, for the first time, on Pesach.

For sponsoring a kiddush

•Jerry Roschwalb in commemoration of his father's Yahrzeit (Shmuel Zanvil ben Yaakov) on Tevet 8.

•Golan and Inbar Ben Nun in memory of his father, Ya'akov Ben David, Yahrzeit on 29 Tevet

•Jerry Horowitz, visiting with us from New York, in memory of his mother's yahrzeit.

•Jerry Roschwalb in memory of his wife's yahrzeit (Chana Liebe) on Adar 3

•Jacob & Khana Soleiman in commemoration of her mother's Shloshim Batya bat Moshiach & Chana (A"H - she passed away on 25th of Shevat.)

•Mordechai & Mona Yahoodain to commemorate his mother's yahrzeit Moteram bat Chanum on Nisan 3

Refuah Sheleima

Laurance Abecassis
Charlie Futrovsky Norm Pollack

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 \$2,-00 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

- To the Strauss and Futrovsky families on the passing their beloved mother and sister Kitty Futrovsky Strauss.



Patronize Mordechai Yahoddain's Gift Shop: Now offering kosher Mezuzot!

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

Kol Ezras Israel

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

Date	Day	Parsha - Chag - Event
10 April	Mo	Erev Pesach—Latest time to Eat 10:35, Burn 11:52 Chametz
11 -12 April	Tu-Wed	Day 1&2 of Pesach/ No Food Prep for Day 2 before 8:24P
14-15 April	Fr-Sat	Shabbat Chol Homoed
16-17 April	Sun-Mo	7th Day of Pesach / No Food Prep for 8th Day Before 8:24P
18 April	Tu	8th Day of Pesach—Yizkor Approx 10:45AM
21-22 April	Fri-Sat	Shemini - Mevorchim Yiar—Start Fri Night Summer Sched
28-29 April	Fri-Sat	Tazri'a-Metzora
5-6 May	Fri-Sat	Acharel Mot—Kedoshim
12-13 May	Fri-Sat	Emor
19-20 May	Fri-Sat	Behar—Bechukotai . Mevorchim Sivan
26-27 May	Fri-Sat	Bamidbar
30-31 May	Tu-Wed	First day of Shavouth
31 May-1 Jun	We-Thu	Second Day Shavouth / No Food Prep for Day 2 before
2-3 Jun	Fri-Sat	Nasso
9-10 Jun	Fri-Sat	Bechalotcha
16-17 Jun	Fri-Sat	Shelach—Mevorchim Tamuz
23-24 Jun	Fri-Sat	Korach—Rosh Chodesh
30 Jun—1 July	Fri-Sat	Chukat
7-8 July	Fri-Sat	Balak

Date	Day	Parsha - Chag - Event	Mincha (PM)	Shema (AM)	batYom Tov (PM)	Shab- batYom Tov Ends (PM)
10 April	Mo	Erev Pesach—Latest time to Eat 10:35, Burn 11:52 Chametz	7:23	7:25	9:54	Maariv
11 -12 April	Tu-Wed	Day 1&2 of Pesach/ No Food Prep for Day 2 before 8:24P	8:24	7:30	9:53	7:30
14-15 April	Fr-Sat	Shabbat Chol Homoed	7:27	7:25	9:50	7:15
16-17 April	Sun-Mo	7th Day of Pesach / No Food Prep for 8th Day Before 8:24P	7:28	7:30	9:48	7:30
18 April	Tu	8th Day of Pesach—Yizkor Approx 10:45AM	8:24	7:30	9:47	7:30
21-22 April	Fri-Sat	Shemini - Mevorchim Yiar—Start Fri Night Summer Sched	7:33	7:00	9:44	7:25
28-29 April	Fri-Sat	Tazri'a-Metzora	7:40	7:00	9:39	7:30
5-6 May	Fri-Sat	Acharel Mot—Kedoshim	7:47	7:00	9:34	7:35
12-13 May	Fri-Sat	Emor	7:54	7:00	9:31	7:40
19-20 May	Fri-Sat	Behar—Bechukotai . Mevorchim Sivan	8:00	7:00	9:28	7:50
26-27 May	Fri-Sat	Bamidbar	8:06	7:00	9:26	7:55
30-31 May	Tu-Wed	First day of Shavouth	8:09	8:10	9:25	8:10
31 May-1 Jun	We-Thu	Second Day Shavouth / No Food Prep for Day 2 before	9:16	8:10	9:25	8:10
2-3 Jun	Fri-Sat	Nasso	8:11	7:00	9:25	8:00
9-10 Jun	Fri-Sat	Bechalotcha	8:15	7:00	9:25	8:05
16-17 Jun	Fri-Sat	Shelach—Mevorchim Tamuz	8:18	7:00	9:25	8:10
23-24 Jun	Fri-Sat	Korach—Rosh Chodesh	8:20	7:00	9:27	8:10
30 Jun—1 July	Fri-Sat	Chukat	8:20	7:00	9:29	8:10
7-8 July	Fri-Sat	Balak	8:18	7:00	9:31	8:05

Shabbat at Ezras Israel: Call 240-627-1661 for Eruv status. After Pesach, Friday Eve Mincha Starts 7PM—Please accept Shabbat Approx 7:20P
 Shacharit 9:00 a.m.
 See above. Followed by Seudah Shlishit and Maariv
 Mincha/Maariv
 Sunday - Friday Shacharit at Ring House, Activity Room 3:
 8:30 a.m. - Followed by Rabbi's shiur (men only)
 Mincha minyan—same location—4:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday

Minyan Times

Luach HaZmanim