



KOL EZRAS ISRAEL



Rabbi's Message

There are two interpretations of the word Chanukah. The word is a contraction of two words *Chanu Chofeh*, which means they rested on the 25th of Kislev. They, the Macabim, rested from battle, as they had finally defeated the Greeks in their existential struggle for the freedom to study Torah and observe all the Mitzvos. Another interpretation of the word is a reference to the Chanukas Hamishkan, the Dedication of the Beis Hamikdash. In this case, actually the Rededication; for after securing the Har Habayis, they found the Beis Hamikdash defiled and contaminated from the idol worship of the Greeks. The Rededication was the culmination of the purification, rebuilding, and reestablishing the Holy Service.

The Torah describes the passionate participation of the Jewish People in the construction of the Mishkan. The Torah tells in Parashas VaYakhel that Moshe Rabbeinu actually needed to tell the nation to stop bringing and donating materials for the Mishkan as there was more than enough. The enthusiasm for this project was so great every single person wanted to have a part in the construction of the dwelling place for

the Divine Presence. The Mishkan was the focal point of the Jewish Nation. Today, a Shul is referred to as a Mikdash Ma"at, a miniature Beis Hamikdash. It is a house of Prayer and Study where we come to connect to Hashem and be inspired. We, here at Ezras Israel, have embarked on our own project to construct an edifice worthy of a Mikdash Ma"at, to create a building that is not only beautiful but one that would enhance the davening and study experience for all who enter. How special it will be if each and every one of us participates in this endeavor, each according to his or her means. However, the important thing is that each and every individual participate on the level that they are able to. What a Kiddush Hashem and expression of Unity. Our efforts will help us to become even more worthy of Hashem's blessings. We have, Boruch Hashem, raised and accumulated significant sums, and are getting closer to making it a reality. However, we still need to raise substantially more. I ask and encourage each and every one of us to participate according to their ability. I would like to take this opportunity to express Hakaras Hatov, deep appreciation and gratitude, to those friends and members who have helped us get to this point. May you all be blessed with Hatzlacha/success in your endeavors along with prosperity and good health for many, many years.



President's Message

"If Jewish life survived the destruction of the Temple that was because the synagogue had been prepared to take over the whole burden and carry it forward for generations to come." (Finklestein--"The Pharisees").

When asked if I am "Jewish," I respond: "Partly. But mostly I am a Jew." Perhaps due to years teaching English on a college faculty, I distinguish between an adjective that describes everything from delicatessen and Broadway shows and a faith based irreducibly on the quintessence and all we are taught and learn from the Torah.

In summer camp, on Shabbat, we danced in a circle and sang in Hebrew: "Eretz Yisroel without the Torah is like a body without a soul." At once, we were predicting the scourge of a Rockefeller Foundation supported BDS, anti-Semitism disguised as concern for Palestinians. We are told that 20% of BDS are Jewish. How does this happen?

I.B.Singer has a character saying: "What Hitler failed to accomplish, New York will." Cynicism? Where are the vast majority of third and fourth generations of the immigrants from shtetl and province? And

why? There is a proverb: "You can't be a Jew with your father's heart."

Jews look to the future and are committed to perpetuating the moral and ethical prescriptions we hear in the Torah reading in the synagogue every Shabbat.

America and the western world was too tempting. "Freedom" was misinterpreted, and so what seemed easier was justified. What was lost was the constant re-enforcement from communal study and understanding of the very practical teachings of regular participation only possible in the "shul" and the Beis Medrish-the study hall.

In these ways, Ezras Israel is devoted to eternal promises--a country that is a Jewish State and a time when the entire world strives to fulfill the achievement of an end to "galut" and glorification of the Creator of the universe. With best wishes, Jerry

Ezras Israel women Rosh Chodesh nights are back!

This year women night has kicked off on Rosh Chodesh Kislev. We met at Perel Kreiser's house and made flavored olive oil and heard from Perel that a miracle can be found even in the obvious. Thank you Perel for hosting the event!

The next gathering will be held, IY"Y, on Rosh Chodesh Shevat, Jan 29th. It will be hosted by Jun Graff and Jean Kelly. (cont. on p2)

Ezras Israel Women's Rosh Chodesh Gatherings Are Back! (cont. from p1)

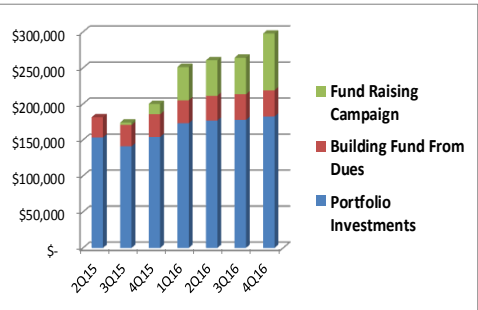
We plan to have another gathering for the month of Adar. Please contact Inbar if you wish to host it.

After Passover we plan to have our annual challah making event! Please contact Inbar if you are interested in sponsoring it.

Do you have an idea for a women night theme? Want to host it? Interested in sponsoring it? Please contact Inbar at: fbnnbar@gmail.com.

Building Expansion Fundraising

In the last six months, since we last reported on our progress in our newsletter, we are happy announce that we have raised an additional fifty thousand dollars. We are now at the \$300K mark towards our \$750K goal. We are very gratified and encouraged



by the fundraising progress we have made. In the last year we have received a total almost \$80,000 in new contributions towards building expansion. We are grateful for the new contributions we have received from: Robert Gamzeh, the families of Harry and Blance Polachek, Stu and June Graff, each of which contributed at least five thousand dollars; and to Abe Wolf, Jerry Roschwalb's cousin, who contributed ten thousand dollars. We have also received at least three contributions between one and two thousand dollars, along with a few lesser, two hundred dollars or less, from a number of other people. Together with regular building fund contributions that we collected with membership dues over the years, along the growth in our investment portfolio, we now have almost \$300,000. See above chart for our progress since we began. As I noted, last time, to make this project more realistic we need to be able to achieve our goal in four years or less because permits, including all extensions, are granted for a maximum of four years. This year's donations of almost \$100K makes it realistic that we can get there on our time table. But clearly more needs to be done. We encourage our members and supporters

to consider spacing their donations over two, three or four years, perhaps donating required distributions from IRA or 401K accounts, for better tax deductibility advantage while minimizing the impact on your budget.

On September 20th, we had our neighborhood meeting we were required to have to submit our application for the initial permits. We were gratified to learn from the representative of the Montrose Civic Association, the immediate neighborhood homeowners association, that our neighbors do not oppose our expansion plans and the Association representative was complimentary of the kind of neighbor the Ezras Israel Congregation has been. The only thing that is preventing is from starting to file for the initial permits is their cost and the fact that once obtained, they cannot be extended indefinitely

Nathan Bogner (A" H)



As we go to press, Morris Altschuler alerted us to a Washington Post Obituary for Nathan Bogner. It reads, in part, as follows:

"On Sunday, December 18, 2016, NATHAN BOGNER of Silver Spring, MD. Beloved son of the late Rabbi Dr. Arthur and Felice Bogner. Loving brother of Miriam Gross and the late Ernest Bogner and Malka Malin. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Services and interment were in Jerusalem, Israel. Memorial contributions may be made to Knesset Yehuda Yeshiva..."

Morris notes that Nathan "should be remembered as caring for his father, coming here with him every other shabbos and frequently leading services, reading Torah and Haftarah and helping to make sure that all went well. Without him it would have been very difficult in those early years. Occasionally he visited with us and he was always interesting and pleasant to discuss matters with. There isn't much else that I can say. Just make sure that everyone knows that he contributed greatly to there being our Orthodox shul in Rockville, when there were none."

Nathan Bogner carried the burden of shul leadership by himself after his father, too ill to carry on, made alyah to Israel in 1987. He carried until Macey Kronsberg (z"l), and Dr. Harry Polachek (z"l), assumed leadership from Nathan in late 1988 early 1989.

Miriam Gross still supports our shul with annual contributions to our Yom Kippur Memorial Book.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים



Nechama's Children's Chanukah Party on Sunday 12/25/2016 at 12 Noon

Ezras Families join us for our annual tradition: The Ezra's kids Chanukah Party!

Spend a wonderful afternoon making edible dreidels, winning great prizes, playing games, enjoying great food, music, face painting and many other fantastic surprises! This party is sponsored by Nechama and Michael Fellner in honor of Nechama's grandparents and parents who have instilled a love of Judaism that transcends generations. It is with love admiration that this annual party is held in their honor.

Shabbat Chanukah Kiddush Lunch

Please make plans to join us for Shabbat Chanukah Kiddush Lunch to celebrate Shabbat and Chanukah and the end of a tumultuous 2016. On Shabbat parsha Miketz on December 31, 2016. Mark Lautman by e-mail at mark@lautman.net or by texting or calling 301-221-6510

Remember Ezras Israel In Your End of Year 2016 Charity Contributions

While planning the end of 2016, please remember the Ezras Israel Congregation in your year-end giving. It is the last opportunity to pay your 2016 Membership Dues, pay any unpaid High Holiday or Simchat Torah Auction pledges.

Most financial advisers are expecting tax rates to be lower in the new administration and is expected to limiting tax deductibility for charity contribution (and other typical deductible expenses.) The implication of this change is that if you should accelerate your expected 2017 expenses into 2016 to maximize the value of your deductions to reduce taxable income.

This is especially true if you owe the shul money for unpaid pledges or if you are contemplating making a major contribution to our shul building expansion.

Please send your contributions to **Ezras Israel Congregation of Rockville PO Box 2281, Rockville MD 20847**

or if you are running out of time please get in touch with Rachmil by calling 301-461-4984 or sending e-mail to milujaco@gmail.com and arrange to walk-in your contribution until midnight on the last night of Chanukah, December 31, 2016.

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: Len & Norma Mordfin, he is no longer able to walk the long distance to shul on shabbos.

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 Jonathan & Meredith Schlaifer on the birth of their daughter Ruth Brianne (Ruth Leah.)

Mazel Tov to the Kreiser Family and especially to Tzirel Leah on her recent marriage to Gedalya Ebstein!

Mazel Tov to Yoram & Shoshana Barnoy on the birth of their grandson to Assaf and Shana in Omaha, Nebraska.

Mazel Tov to Golan & Inbar Ben Nun on their move into their newly acquired neighborhood home!

Mazel Tov to Rabbi & Tova Weiss (our Rabbi before the Kreisers) on becoming grandparents to a baby boy born to their son Menachem and daughter-in-law Yisraela in Monsey NY.

Yasher Koach!



-Tom Treibwasser for shofar blowing on Rosh Hashana

-Michael Fellner for Torah Reading on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kipur

-Judy Lowitz for sponsoring our Simchat Torah dinner and lunch.

- Mark Lautman for Torah Reading on many shabbatot and Hillel Adler, and Shivi Birnbaum to fill in when Mark was away.

- Dovid Kreiser for Torah Reading on Sukkot and Simchat Torah

- Rabbi & Perel Kreiser, Chani & Bat Sheva for preparing the food for the Shabbos Project Dinner and Lunch and serving the meals.

-Morris Altschuler for his many years of management of the shul cemetery at Gan Zikaron.

- Sheldon & Roz Needle, for once again organizing a successful Patron's Dinner event.

For sponsoring a kiddush

-June Graff and Doreen Blech in commemoration of their mothers' yahrzeits--Rachel Manheimer (Rachel bat Yaacov) on 11 Cheshvan and Rita Wacks (Rivka bat Tzvi Hersh) on 9 Cheshvan

- .Manny and Nancy Zymelman in honor of their daughter's family (Naomi & Michael Weinberger and kids) visit.

- Rachmil & Agi Jacobovits in commem-

oration of his mother's Misie Devorah bas Moshe Dov on Kislev 6

-Jerry Roschwalb in commemoration of his mother's yahrzeit Ita bas Tzvi Zev Halevi on Kislev 1 and in celebration of his Bar Mitzvah Anniversary;

-Sheldon & Roz Needle in commemoration of his mother's yahrzeit--Rina bas Mordechai Hacohen on Kislev 23.

Jonathan & Meredith Schlaifer in celebration of the recent birth of Ruth Brianne (Rus Leah bas Tzvi Hershel Dovid)

Refuah Sheleima

Norm Pollack
Laurance Abecassis
Charlie Futrovsky

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 sforim 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 sforim sponsorship? Ask Rabbi Kreiser or contact Rachmil.301-461-4984

Condolences



-Rose Glasner on the passing of her brother Ben Tzion Shanker.

-Miriam Gross on the passing of her brother Nathan Bogner

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

Minyan Times Luach HaZmanim

Date	Day	Parsha - Chag - Event	Candle Lighting (PM)	Mincha (PM)	Latest Shema (AM)	Shab-bat Yom Tov Mincha (PM)	Shab-bat Yom Tov Ends (PM)
23-24 Dec	Fr - Sat	Vayeishev - Mevorchim Tevet	4:32	4:30	9:43	4:20	5:36
25-30 Dec	Sun-Fri	Week of Hannukah - 1 st Light Saturday Night after Havdala	Xxx	4:00	9:46-8	xxx	xxx
30-31 Dec	Fr-Sat	Mikeitz - Fri Rosh Chodesh Tevet/7 th Hannukah Light by	4:37	4:35P	9:49	4:25	5:41
6-7 Jan	Fr - Sat	Vayigash	4:43	4:45P	9:51	4:30	5:47
13-14 Jan	Fr - Sat	Vayechi	4:50	4:50	9:51	4:35	5:53
20-21 Jan	Fr-Sat	Shemos - Mevorchim Shevat	4:58	5:00	9:51	4:45	6:00
27-28 Jan	Fr-Sat	Va'etrah - Rosh Chodesh Shevat	5:06	5:05	9:49	4:50	6:08
3-4 Feb	Fr-Sat	Bo	5:14	5:15	9:47	5:00	6:15
10-11 Feb	Fr-Sat	Bishalach - Shabbat Shira - Tu B'Shevat	5:22	5:20	9:43	5:05	6:23
17-18 Feb	Fr-Sat	Yisro	5:30	5:30	9:39	5:15	6:30
24-25 Feb	Fr-Sat	Mishpatim - Parshas Shekalim - Mevorchim Adar/Sun-Mon	5:38	5:40	9:34	5:25	6:38
3-4 Mar	Fr-Sat	Terumah	5:45	5:45	9:29	5:30	6:45
9-Mar	Thu	Tanit Esther - Fast of Esther - Start 5:09AM/Ends 6:50P (Clock moves FORWARD 1 Hour Tonight)	5:52	5:50	9:20	4:25	6:50
10-11 Mar	Fr-Sat	Tatzaveh - Parsha Zachor - Megillah Sat Nite 7:00PM	5:52	5:50	9:20	4:25	6:52
12 Mar	Sun	Purim - Shacharit 7:30AM - RH Megillah approx. 8AM	xxx	xxx	10:21	4:00	xxxx
17-18 Mar	Fr-Sat	Ki Sisah - Parshas Parah	6:59	7:00	10:15	6:45	7:59
24-25 Mar	Fr-Sat	Vayakhel-Pekudai / Parshas Hachodesh/ Mevorchim Nisan	7:06	7:05	10:09	6:50	8:05
31Mar/1Ap	Fr-Sat	Vayikra	7:13	7:15	10:02	6:55	8:13
7-8 Apr	Fr-Sat	Tzav - Shabbat Hagadol	7:20	7:20	9:56	7:05	8:21

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 Sun-
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 Mincha minyan—same location—4:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday Sun-