

Kol Ezras Israel



Rabbi's Message

In Parashas Vayechi 49:12, before Yaakov's passing, Yaakov blesses each of his children. In part of his blessing to Yehuda, Yaakov gives Yehuda a blessing that in his portion, the fields should be so productive, they "will flow with wine like a fountain and they will become white-toothed from an abundance of milk". Meaning, the fields should be blessed with lush vegetation that the sheep that graze upon it will produce an abundance of milk and the inhabitants will thus have white teeth. The wording of the Verse is "ולבן שנים מחלב" *white-toothed from milk*. The Gemara in Kesuvos 111b, says, R' Yochanan says, "One who whitens his teeth (smiles) at his friend, is better, than one who gives him milk". The Gemara derives this from the above verse, as the word *leben* white-teeth from having so much milk, can also be read as *libun*, whitening of teeth, (a smile), being better than milk.

The Gemara is conveying to us the importance of something we think of as fleeting and insignificant; a smile and a greeting. A smile and a greeting are actually quite significant, and can do much for others. Reb Yisroel Salanter once said that our faces have the status of *reshus harabim*, public domain, as it impacts those around us. I recall observing this in action many years ago, and it had quite an impact upon me. It was on my first visit for Shabbos to my in-laws in Scranton PA, after my engagement. I accompanied my (future) father-in-law for the mile long walk to his Yeshiva for Shacharis. It was a bright morning, and it struck me how my father-in-law greeted each person along the way. Those walking along the street, washing their cars, each person was greeted with a pleasant good morning and a smile, which elicited a positive response. I recall being struck as I noticed what a simple, pleasant greeting can do for another.

Although during these times, we are quite often

masked in public, a smile and a pleasant greeting are still felt, not only by the recipient, but by us as well. It is these simple, thoughtful acts and words that we extend to others that make the difference. Noticing and acknowledging those around us, even those with whom we interact fleetingly, enhances their dignity. We are surrounded with opportunities. The mailman, those who collect our garbage, workers, cashiers, neighbors, and the like. We can make a difference, and so much can be achieved with just a minimum of effort.

Matanot l'Evyonim (gifts to the poor)

It is customary on Purim to give gifts of food or money to those less fortunate. Please send your checks to the shul marked for this purpose.

Maot chitim (wheat money)

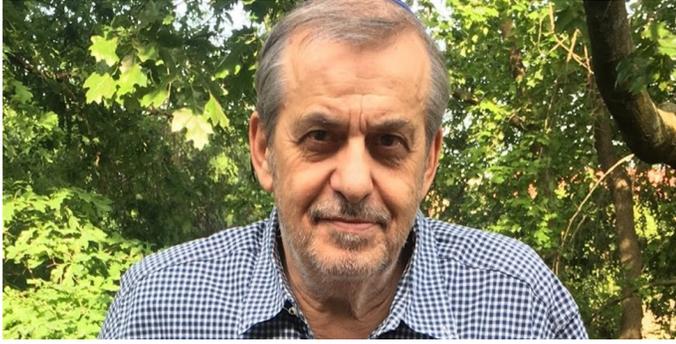
Before Pesach, the Rabbi distributes money to buy Pesach foods to those who cannot afford to. Checks can be sent to the shul marked *Maot chitim*.

Condolences

Our condolences to the entire Jacobovits family and Schein family on the death of their beloved Dora Weiss A"H, Agi Jacobovits' dear Mother.

Cemetery Plots

Are available at Gan Zikaron (Garden of Remembrance)
Contact Gene Tartakovsky at 301 300-1999
or Rachmil Jacobovits at milujaco@gmail.com or 301 461-4984



President's Message

This issue of our Kol Israel newsletter, covering the first quarter of 2022 marks a closing chapter in my latest stint as President of the Congregation. Our Bylaws thankfully require me to step down after three consecutive one-year terms. At the first Board meeting after Pesach I will turn over the reins to my successor with gratitude and best wishes. This will conclude my third rotation at the presidency that first began in 1993. Our Congregation has accomplished much in these nearly three decades but not as much as I had hoped at the outset. Much work is left for my successor, whoever that person will be. I hope the Congregation will rally around the new President and partner with him to make our *makom me-at* even better in the years ahead.

The pandemic, and especially the Omicron variant, has disrupted many shuls and possibly hit our shul harder than most because our strong affiliation with the vulnerable population of the Ring House and the restrictions that were rightly imposed to protect the health of the residents. While we have not seen any infections tied to Ezras Israel shul attendance, the wider prevalence of Omicron infections even among the vaccinated and boosted, as in my own case, has further limited shul attendance both on *Shabbat* and weekdays. Ring House had planned January 9th, 2022, to let us back to conduct the daily *minyan*, but with Omicron surging, that planned resumption date is now pushed back to February. We hope that the spring brings not only better weather but also much better news on the pandemic so we can return to normal *shul* life.

Thanks to Rabbi and Perel Kreiser's sustained efforts, we have adapted. We moved our Talmud and Mishna shiurim classes to be delivered by Zoom on-line and they jointly publish a highly appreciated weekly Parsha Primer, that helps our members and supporters learn and observe even if they are prevented from coming to shul by circumstances of distance and health. Rabbi and Perel Kreiser have been challenged by the pandemic more than most because of the need to juggle parenting, teaching, mentoring and inspiring the Yeshiva and Torah School students and the Ezras Israel community and they have risen to these

challenges magnificently. Their over twenty years of devoted service to the community and especially their magnificent contributions over the past two pandemic-challenged years will be recognized and honored at this year's Yeshiva of Greater Washington Awards Dinner on Feb 6, 2022. I urge everyone to find a way to participate by attending the dinner or sponsoring an ad in the Dinner Journal and showing our *shul's* affection and appreciation for Rabbi and Perel Kreiser.

On a personal note, Agi and I thank the Ezras Israel *shul* community and the many individuals who have comforted us during our *aveilus* following the recent passing of Agi's mother Dora Weiss A"H. We are grateful to all the people who provided food, attended the funeral, visited us during shiva both in person, by phone and by Zoom and made contributions in Dora's memory to the *shul* and other worthy causes. We are touched by our community's generosity and caring. May Dora's memory be for a blessing!

Wishing you all good health and good tidings and looking forward to seeing you all back in *shul* soon!

Rachmil

Mazal Tov

To the Beroukhim family on the marriage of Lerone and Jonathan Yeroushalmi and Mayan to Eden Yaghoubi.

To Neta and John Minster on the birth of their daughter, Eliana Raye Charmaine Minster.

To the Fellner family as Kaylee graduates from the Charles E Smith Jewish Day School.

Sale of Hametz

Please contact Rabbi Kreiser to sell your *Hametz* at EliezerKreiser@aol.com.

Chesed Cards

Are available for happy and sad occasions call June Graff at 301 770-7127.

KIDS CORNER

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Haman. Haman who Haman, what are you doing after school?

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Vashti. Vashti who? Vashti dishes for me, and I'll give you a hamantaschen.

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Esther. Esther who? Esther an end to these silly knock-knock jokes?

(Courtesy of BehrmanHouse)

RECIPE KOSHER FOR PASSOVER

- Ready In: **40 minutes**
- Prep Time: **10 minutes**
- Cook Time: **30 minutes**

Yield: **16 servings**

Pareve Passover Brownies

Ingredients

- 1 cup oil
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- ½ cup potato starch
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup cocoa
- 1 bag (2 cups) chocolate chips

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Combine all ingredients and pour into a 9-inch round or square baking pan.

Bake for about 30 minutes – until top is cracked.

Pareve | Emuna Braverman ([Gourmet Kosher Cooking](#))

Charoset from Persia – A Family Favorite

Grind in the food processor:

- ¾ cup unsalted pistachios
- ¾ cup walnuts
- ¾ cup almonds

Then, add fruits and further process coarsely:

- ½ cup seedless white raisins
- 1 cup raisins
- ¾ cup pitted dates

2 apples – peeled and cored
Then, transfer the processor contents to a bowl and add:
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ cup red semisweet wine or red grape juice or pomegranate juice

Mix this together in the bowl.

After the seders, use it with cottage cheese or yogurt for a great lunch.

from [Sephardic Cooking](#) by Copeland Marks

***Pesach* Schedule** (from Calendar page)

Thur April 14 Search for *Hametz* after 8:30pm.

Fri April 15 *Shacharit* with *Siyum B'chorim* 8:15am.

Finish eating *Hametz* by 10:56am, burn *Hametz* by 12:02pm. *Mincha* 7:25pm and light candles for *Pesach I* at 7:27pm.

Sat April 16 *Shacharit* 9:00am and *Mincha* 7:15pm.

No food prep for *Seder II* until after 8:29pm when *Shabbat ends*. Light candles for *Pesach II* at 8:29pm.

Sun April 17 *Shacharit* at 9:00am and *mincha* at 8:00pm. *Yom tov* ends at 8:30pm.

Date	Day	Parsha - Chag - Event	Candle Lighting	Erev Shabbat Mincha	Shabbat Yom Tov Mincha	Shabbat Yom Tov Ends
Jan 28-29	Fri-Sat	Mishpatim <i>Mevorchim Adar I</i> (RH Tue-Wed)	5:06	5:05	4:55	6:07
Feb 4-5	Fri-Sat	Terumah	5:14	5:15	5:05	6:15
Feb 11-12	Fri-Sat	Tetsaveh	5:23	5:20	5:10	6:22
Feb 18-19	Fri-Sat	Ki tissa	5:30	5:30	5:20	6:30
Feb 25-26	Fri-Sat	Vayahhel <i>Shekalim mevorchim Adar II</i> RH Th Fr	5:38	5:35	5:25	6:37
Mar 4-5	Fri-Sat	Pekudai	5:46	5:45	5:40	6:44
Mar 11-12	Fri-Sat	Vayikra - <i>Shabbat Zachor</i>	5:53	5:55	5:42	6:51
Mar 16	Wed	<i>Ta'annis Ester</i> fast begins 5:59am ends 7:57pm	==	Mnc 6:45	Mrv 7:40	Meg 8:00
Mar 17	Thu	<i>Purim</i> Shacharit 7:30am <i>Megillah</i> 8:15am	==	==	4:00pm	==
Mar 18-19	Fri-Sat	Tzav	7:00	7:00	6:50	7:58
Mar 25-26	Fri-Sat	Shemini <i>Para Mevorchim Nissan</i>	7:07	7:05	6:55	8:06
Apr 1-2	Fri-Sat	Tazria <i>Rosh Hodesh Nissan Ha' Hodesh</i>	7:14	7:15	7:00	8:13
Apr 8-9	Fri-Sat	Metzora <i>Shabbat Ha' Gadol</i>	7:20	7:20	7:10	8:20
Apr 14	Thu	Information and times for these days	==	==	==	==
Apr 15	Fri	Are shown on the bottom Right of page 3.	==	==	==	==
Apr 15-16	Fri-Sat	Any further instructions needed will be	==	==	==	==
Apr 15-16	Fri-Sat	Provided by the Rabbi.	==	==	==	==

Shabbat at Ezras Israel: Shacharit begins 9am - Call 240-627-1661 for Eruv status COVID Protocols in Effect

Kol Ezras Israel

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