



# KOL EZRAS ISRAEL



## Rabbi's Message

An integral part of the Seder is the four cups of wine that we drink. They correspond to the four stages of redemption from our enslavement in Egypt.

Rabbi Shamshom Raphael Hirsh explains the four stages as follows. These four stages were essential to the Jewish nation attaining the freedom for which it was destined, G-dly freedom. Pesach is known as the festival of freedom. Freedom means deliverance from burdens and the breaking of chains is merely a state of being for which room has been made for the Divine likeness to shine forth. The four stages of redemption are hinted to in the four expressions of Redemption that are mentioned in the beginning of Parashas Vaaira:

” והוצאתי V”Hotzeise” - I will lead you out from under the burdens of Egypt

Liberation from burdens is only the beginning of freedom. It is only one of the stages which pave the way for freedom. It is not the fruit of freedom rather a prerequi-

site for G-dly freedom. The first stage represents liberation from the burdens of slavery.

וְהִצַּלְתִּי V’Hitzalte - I will deliver you from slavery. The second stage represents deliverance from servitude. וְיִגְאֹלְתִּי V”Goalti - I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

Once you are free, you may think that the ultimate freedom is to do whatever you please, owing no allegiance to anyone. But that is not true freedom. I will free you in that you will be aware that the freedom that you have gained is from G-d, enabling you to get to the next step, which is-

וְלִקַּחְתִּי V’Lockachti - I will take you to myself to be My people and I will be your G-d. You will realize that you are chosen to be the “am hanivchar”, “the nation of G-d”. This is what true freedom is.

Pesach is a Festival in which we celebrate freedom – a freedom that is a true freedom- that of being the nation of G-d and doing His will.

Chag Kasher Vesameach.



## President's Message

On a recent shabbos, (March 17) we had a two part parasaha which talked about building the mishkan and the effort put into that by ordinary Jews. These were people fresh from slavery who never had an opportunity to develop, or even discover, any kind of creative skills such as sewing, painting or anything else for that matter. But these were the skills in demand to build the mishkan..

Just the same, when Hashem asked those whose heart moved them to join in and contribute their efforts toward building the mishkan, They did not hesitate to volunteer.

Consider that they were taking a risk that perhaps they would not be up to the task and might disappoint themselves or the leaders.

But they knew there was a job to be done and that Hashem through Moshe was asking for volunteers so they went ahead and took a chance.

Nowhere does it mention that anyone's efforts came up short.

In life, we are constantly being asked to "volunteer" and take responsibility for "work" that needs to be done It may have to do with visiting the

sick, contributing to a cause, becoming a dues paying member of an institution whose mission is to support those in the community that need their services, or even to be a working member of a synagogue board.

We all have plenty to do and taking on more can seem daunting and unreasonable. But I have learned from personal experience that we all have a much greater capacity to contribute, both time wise and financially, that we think we do. And what a great feeling it is to take that plunge and perform past what we thought was possible. We will find that with a little energy and positive thinking that Hashem moves obstacles out of our way. Indeed, no one had to appoint the builders of the mishkan. They saw the need and stepped forward and virtual miracles were performed so that they could complete their mission..

We don't have mishkan to build as in ancient times. But worthy projects are always presenting themselves. Let's take a lesson from our heroic ancestors and step forward to help complete the job.

Truly, Hashem dwells in the house of those who serve him by serving his children.

Chag Kosher v sameach Pesach to everyone.

## The Ballad of the Four Sons

(to the tune of "Clementine")

Said the father to his children,  
"At the seder you will dine,  
You will eat your fill of matzoh,  
You will drink four cups of wine."  
Now this father had no daughters,  
But his sons they numbered four.  
One was wise and one was wicked,  
One was simple and a bore.  
And the fourth was sweet and winsome, he  
was young and he was small.  
While his brothers asked the questions he  
could scarcely speak at all.

Said the wise one to his father  
"Would you please explain the laws?  
Of the customs of the seder  
Will you please explain the cause?"

And the father proudly answered,  
"As our fathers ate in speed,  
Ate the paschal lamb 'ere midnight  
And from slavery were freed."  
So we follow their example  
And 'ere midnight must complete  
All the seder and we should not  
After 12 remain to eat.

Then did sneer the son so wicked  
"What does all this mean to you?"

And the father's voice was bitter  
As his grief and anger grew.  
"If you yourself don't consider  
As son of Israel,  
Then for you this has no meaning  
You could be a slave as well."

Then the simple son said simply  
"What is this," and quietly  
The good father told his offspring  
"We were freed from slavery."

But the youngest son was silent  
For he could not ask at all.  
His bright eyes were bright with wonder

As his father told him all.  
My dear children, heed the lesson and  
remember evermore  
What the father told his children  
Told his sons that numbered four.

**Please be a wise son and join us for  
Kabbalas Shabbos services on Friday  
evening and help ensure that the shul  
can guarantee a minyan.**

## The Seder Rap

by Randi and Murray Spiegel, Passover 1994

Gonna tell you all a story, 'bout the Jews in  
Egypt,  
They had a good thing goin', there was no  
complaint.  
But then there came this Pharoah, who was  
mean and nasty,  
He worked them night and day, from the  
heat they did faint.

They pleaded unto G-d, "Save us all, your  
children"  
And G-d looked down to them, he was  
quite distressed.  
So G-d appeared to Moses through a bush  
on fire,  
He said "Go back to Egypt, go clear up this  
mess."

Chorus: Tell the story, find the Matzoh,  
drink the cups of wine. It's all in celebra-  
tion, so let's sing and dine.

So Moses went to Pharoah, saying "G-d's  
real angry,  
They've suffered many years, Le-let my  
people go."  
But Pharoah didn't listen, he had no inten-  
tions  
Of giving up his servants, and HUHp said  
"No."  
So G-d sent down 10 plagues, which were  
quite horrendous,  
They started out with water being changed  
to blood.  
And then there came the frogs; Third, the  
lice persisted,  
Then wild beasts everywhere left a ... trail  
of crud.

Chorus: Tell the story, find the Matzoh,  
drink the cups of wine. It's all in celebra-  
tion, so let's sing and dine.

The cattle were all killed, and the boils  
were torture,  
The hail came down in torrents, heads  
were really woozie.  
From the sky there came the locusts, num-  
ber 9 was darkness,  
But G-d was not yet done, number 10 was  
a doozie.  
All the first-born dropped like flies in their  
tents and temples,  
Every bird and beast in Egypt, only  
Pharoah was spared.  
Such a wailin' in Mitsrayim, there was  
such commotion,

Pharoah couldn't comprehend, he just ...  
stopped and stared.

Chorus: Tell the story, find the Matzoh,  
drink the cups of wine. It's all in celebra-  
tion, so let's sing and dine.

The Jews ran out of Egypt with their herds  
of cattle,  
Pharoah followed with his armies, they  
were very near,  
But then Moses stretched his hand, and  
The Sea was parted,  
Our people walked on through, they  
were ... free and clear.  
So here we are tonight, sitting 'round this  
table,  
We tell this tale again, never with a gap.  
When our ancestors were slaves, G-d  
reached out to help them,  
The Jews are now a people, 'cause we  
HUHp beat the rap!

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appended.*

## Membership Renewal

Pesach, the original Jewish national inde-  
pendence holiday, is a time of renewal both  
in our bonds to each other as Jews and in  
our commitment to a Jewish future through  
the fulfillment of the commandment וְהִגַּדְתָּ  
לְבִנְךָ lit. "tell it to your son" in retelling the  
story of the Exodus. Just our parents and  
grandparents, through the experience of  
family seders, left indelible marks on our  
consciousness as Jews, we too do so for  
our children and in the process establish  
cross-generational links to our posterity.

By renewing or starting your own  
membership in Ezras Israel at this season  
of renewal you make a commitment, along  
with your other Pesach celebrations, to  
strengthen your bonds to our fellow Jews  
both from around here and those from  
around the world who come through our  
doors. Be a part of an institution, which  
through the labors of dedicated volunteers  
and inspirational rabbinic leadership has  
worked to maintain a commitment to a  
Jewish future for over a century. We are  
very diverse in level of personal obser-  
vance and in age - among us we have  
members in their nineties and who are in  
their twenties, but we are all united in our  
commitment to our fellow Jews as a peo-  
ple, and a Jewish future for ourselves and  
our children.

## 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 7:30 pm at the shul (men only) (contact Rabbi Kreiser to confirm dates)

### Baruchim Habaim

New Members: Golan & Inbar Ben-Nun Family, Jonathan & Meredith Schlaifer,

**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!

Manny & Nancy Zymelman on celebrating their Golden (50th) Wedding Anniversary!

Meredith Jessica Kroehl & Jonathan Daniel Schlaifer, on their wedding

Robert Gamzeh on his marriage

Leah Rosen and the entire Rosen Family on Tzachi's engagement

Manny & Nancy Zymelman, on the Bat-Mitzvah of their granddaughter Talia Zymelman

### Yasher Koach!



To Mark & Charlene Disler for publicizing and providing refreshments for our standing room-only lecture by Rabbi YY Rubinstein..

Sheldon & Roz Needle for organizing our Spring Shabbat dinner in shul.

Judy Lowitz for deliciously provisioning Shabbat kiddushshim.

Mark Lautman & Michael Richman & Rabbi Kreiser for their hard work and extensive preparations to read the Torah beautifully on Shabbat.

Joanathan Abècassis for hours of work refurbishing the children's room carpeting.

To Perel Kreiser and her family for the amazing Purim seudah.

### For sponsoring a kiddush

Mark Lautman, to celebrate the arrival and Brit Mila of his first grandson

The Shul, in honor of Nate Druckman's graduation from the CES Jewish Day School

Emil & Dr. Greta Hirsch, to celebrate the visit of their children from NY & Israel

Estee Portnoy, in memory of her father Martin Mermelstein / Mordechai ben Boruch z"l on his shloshim, and in appreciation of the congregation's caring for him while he lived in the neighborhood

Selma Slater, in memory of her mother z"l

Louis Gilden Graff, in memory of his father Avraham Elya

Jerry Roschwalb, in memory of his wife Susanne / Chana Liebe z"l

Meredith Kroehl & Jonathan Schlaifer & their families in honor of Jonathan's aufruf

The Shul, in commemoration of the Rabbi's father's Harav Aharon Gedalya's ben Yisroel Yaakov (צ"ח) yearzeit

### Refuah Sheleima

Norman Pollack, Dr. Jack Trombka, Shari Weiss (Greta Hirsch's mother)

### 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 \$1,900 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 \$50 donation to sponsor a regular Stone Edition Chumash, and \$36 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

Family of Martin Mermelstein / Mordechai ben Boruch z"l

Mordechai Yahoudain on the passing of his mother in 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 Judith Lowitz- 240-328-7648 or by e-mail judithlowitz@hotmail.com or reserve online at [www.ezrasisrael.org](http://www.ezrasisrael.org)

Date	Day	Parsha - Chag - Event	Candle Lighting	Friday / Erev Yom Tov / Shabbat / Shabbat Yom Tov Mincha Ends
6-April	Fri	Erev Pesach: Eat / Burn Chametz No Later Than 10:38/11:54	xxxx	xxxx
6-7 April	Fri-Sat	First day of Pesach	7:19	7:15
7-8 April	Sat-Sun	Second Day of Pesach	After 8:20	7:30
12-13 April	Thu-Fri	Seventh day of Pesach	7:26	7:20
13-14 April	Fri-Sat	Eight Day of Pesach	After 8:27	7:35
20-April	Fri-Sat	Shmini (Mevorchim Iyar) (Rosh Chodesh - Sun & Mon)	7:33*	7:00
27-April	Fri-Sat	Tazria Metzora	7:39*	7:00
4-May	Fri-Sat	Achrei Mot / Kedoshim	7:46*	7:00
10-May	Thu	Lag B'Omer	xxxx	xxxx
11-May	Fri-Sat	Emor	7:53*	7:00
18-May	Fri-Sat	Behar Bechukosai (Mevorchim Sivan) (Rosh Chodesh -Tue)	7:59*	7:00
25 - 26 May	Fri-Sat	Bamidbar	8:05*	7:00
27-May	Sun	First Day of Shavouth	After 9:12	8:10
28-May	Mon	Second Day of Shavouth	xxxx	8:00
1-Jun	Fri-Sat	Naso	8:10*	8:00
8-Jun	Fri-Sat	Bahalotcho	8:15*	8:05
15-Jun	Fri-Sat	Shelach (Mevorchim Tammuz) (Rosh Chodesh Wed & Thu)	8:18*	8:10
22-Jun	Fri-Sat	Korach	8:19*	8:10
29-Jun	Fri-Sat	Chukat	8:19*	8:10

\*Candle lighting is preferable at the time that the Ezras Israel Community Accepts Shabbos approx. 7:20PM in the summer

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  
 Sunday – Friday Shacharit at Ring House, Activity Room 3:  
 8:30 a.m. Followed by Rabbi's shivrit (men only)  
 Monday, Thursday  
 8:05 a.m. (Also the time on Rosh Chodes & other weekdays with Torah readings)

# Kol Ezras Israel

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