

Whitestone Hebrew Centre Bulletin

12-45 Clintonville St. Whitestone, NY 11357



שלום

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Volume XXIX No. 7

March 2020

Adar — Nissan 5780

CELEBRATE PURIM AT WHC

Megilla Reading

Monday, March 9th -- 7:00 PM

PURIM PARTY

Following Megilla Reading



Sisterhood Passover Program

Tuesday, March 24th – 12:30 P.M.

"Passover Around the World"

Refreshments will be served



Family Shabbat

Saturday, March 21st @ 10:00 AM

Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, March 31st -- 7:30 PM





WHC Bulletin Staff

Rabbi Steven Axelman,
Editor
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Tuesday, March 10th

WHC ADMINISTRATION

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Treasurer/Financial Secretary -
Barbara Parker
Corresponding/Recording Secretary -
Ron Kohn
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Rhoda Weinstein

Rabbi Steven Axelman
haxelman@gmail.com
718-208-5059



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

In this column I would like to present a very brief outline of Jewish history leading up to the events celebrated on Purim, based primarily on two websites: chabad.org and aish.com. The patriarch of Judaism (and related religions), Avraham (Abraham), was born c. 1812. B.C.E. His son Yitzchak (Isaac) was born 100 years later, c. 1712 B.C.E. Yitzchak's son Yaakov (Jacob), also known as Yisrael (Israel) was born 60 years later, c. 1652 B.C.E. The twelve sons of Yaakov are known to us as the twelve tribes. His fourth son was named Yehuda (Judah) from which the name "Jews" originates. The sons moved to Egypt along with their father when they reunited with Yoseif (Joseph) c. 1522 B.C.E. They were subsequently enslaved by the Egyptians until redeemed by God through Moshe (Moses) c. 1312 B.C.E. After wandering 40 years in the desert, they began to settle in Israel c. 1272 B.C.E. The first king of Israel, Sha'ul (Saul) was anointed c. 879 B.C.E. King David became the ruler only a few short years later. Around 836 B.C.E., King David's son, Shlomo (Solomon) began his rule and shortly thereafter began to build a permanent Temple to God, replacing the temporary Mishkan (Tabernacle). Less than 30 years later, with Shlomo's death, the kingdom of Israel was split into two kingdoms, the first of which was conquered by the Assyrians c. 555 B.C.E. With this event the legendary Ten Tribes of Israel were lost. The remaining two tribes of Yehuda and Binyamin, along with Kohanim and Levi'im (Priests and Levites) remained in Israel until conquered by the Babylonians c. 422 B.C.E. (Those with some familiarity with Jewish history have most often learned the date of the destruction of the First Temple

to be c. 586 B.C.E. This column follows a more traditional timeline of Jewish history; for elaboration see e.g., aish.com/il/h/cc/48937787.html.) The Jews were then exiled to Babylon. Within about 50 years Babylon was conquered by the Persians and Medes. The Persian ruler, Coresh (Cyrus) soon issued a decree allowing all the indigenous peoples that had been exiled by the now-defunct Babylonian empire to go back to their homeland. As related in the Biblical Book of Ezra (1:3): *In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, ... the Lord aroused the spirit of Cyrus, king of Persia, and he issued a proclamation throughout his kingdom – and in writing as well, saying, "Thus said Cyrus the King of Persia, 'All the kingdoms of the earth has the Lord, God of heaven, given to me and He has commanded me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of His entire people – may his God be with him – and let him go to Jerusalem which is in Judah and build the Temple of the Lord..."*

Only approximately 42,000 Jews actually returned to Israel, the rest, presumably, were comfortable in exile by then. They began to rebuild the Holy Temple but this rebuilding was held up for 18 years as a result of the Samaritans reporting to the Persian ruler that the Jews would rebel if allowed to continue this venture. The story of Purim as related in the Megillat Esther (Book of Esther) takes place during this time period.

Briefly, the new ruler of Persia, Achashveirosh had calculated that the prophesized period of 70 years of the Jews' exile had come to an end, and confident that

(Continued on page 4)

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood Message

Join us on Tuesday, March 24th at 12:30 P.M. for Sisterhood's Passover Program. The program will be led by Iris Kirschner, our Program Chairperson. Refreshments will be served. We hope to see you at the Passover Program.

Sisterhood and Family Shabbat will take place on Saturday April 25th at 10:00 A.M. Be sure to mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing you at this annual service.

SISTERHOOD DATES TO REMEMBER

Tue.	Mar. 3rd	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 AM
Tue.	Mar. 24th	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 AM
Tue.	Mar. 24th	Sisterhood Passover Program	12:30 PM

Making Contributions

For many years Sisterhood has offered the service of sending cards from all those who wish to acknowledge both Simchas and Condolences. The response from the recipients is most heart warming. The following funds are available:

Simcha Fund.....	\$10
Chai Fund	\$18
Prayer Book Fund.....	\$10
Inscribed Prayer Books	\$25

The recipient receives an acknowledgement of the contribution and it is printed in the monthly Bulletin so all can share the feelings expressed. To place orders, call Patricia Smolker at (718) 746-7068.

Checks for the above funds should be made payable to "Sisterhood of WHC".

Best Wishes for a

speedy and complete recovery

Bruce Berenson



Condolences

To the family of Betty Goldberg on her loss

To the family of Paula Hanover on her loss

To the Minsky family on the loss of Andrea Minsky

To Robin Moskowitz and family

on the loss of Mindy Moskowitz Wales

המקום ינחם אתכם

בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

May their memory be a blessing

Prayer Book Fund—February 2020

Inscribed Prayer Book
in memory of Paula Hanover

- Sisterhood WHC
- Pat Smolker



Visit with the Rabbi— In the Comfort of your Home!



Rabbi Axeiman is available to visit with those of our congregants who are either homebound or find it difficult to get out , but would appreciate the opportunity to meet with the Rabbi at their convenience and in their own home. If this is something you would be interested in, please phone the office and let us know what the best days and times would be for the Rabbi to visit .

WHC mourns the passing of our member

PAULA HANOVER

Beloved mother of Mimi and Alain
 Beloved mother-in-law of John and Carol
 Beloved grandmother
 of Judith, Daniel and Eric
 Beloved grandmother-in-law of Karen
 Beloved great-grandmother
 of Alex and Ashley



May her soul be bound up
 in the bond of eternal life



March Happy Birthdays

Evelyn Apter	Saul Osdoby
Jill Dee	Ellis Rosenblatt
Naomi Gukowsky	Joshua Samet
Danielle Hoffmann	Madison Skow
Gloria Keller	Seena Slutsky
Ronald Kohn	

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

(Continued from page 2)



they will no longer be redeemed by God, he throws a party lasting 180 days, followed by a seven-day party for all the inhabitants of his capital, Shushan. Though the party is at least in part celebrating the hopelessness

of their situation, the Jews attend his party per his invitation. While inebriated, Achashveirosh orders his wife Vashti to appear (nude, per the Talmud) and when she refuses, he has her executed. He follows the counsel of his advisors and picks a replacement queen through an empire-wide beauty pageant, which is how Esther, a cousin of the Jew, Mordechai, comes to be Queen of Persia.

Achashveirosh's top minister is a man named Haman HaAgagi, a descendant of the nation of Amalek, who are sworn enemies of God and the Jewish people. Haman persuades Achashveirosh to agree to issue a secret decree to annihilate the Jews of Persia on the 13th day of the Hebrew month of Adar. Haman arrived at this date by drawing lots, or *purim*, hence the name of this holiday. Mordechai learns of this

decree and approaches Esther to do her utmost with Achashveirosh to rescind it, reminding her that the only reason she ever became Queen of

Persia was to be in a position to help the Jews in time of need. Eventually Esther reveals to Achashveirosh that she herself is Jewish and that Haman is plotting to kill her and all her people. Haman ends up hanging on gallows that he had planned to use for his arch-enemy, Mordechai. Achashveirosh then issues a new decree allowing the Jews to avenge themselves from those who would have destroyed them.

Curiously, the name of God is never mentioned in the Book of Esther. Some comment that this was to specifically illustrate that even though the era of prophesy and direct encounters with God was coming to an end, God will continue to act on the Jews' behalf in a more hidden way, keeping his promise that they will eternally be His people, never allowing them to be fully annihilated.





Recent positive news generated by Israel, of which we can all be proud.
(Articles below are excerpts of originals only)

Israeli HyDrop technology fights fires from above

Elbit Systems manages to extinguish fires from great heights, allowing for safe, round-the-clock firefighting operations.

<https://www.israel21c.org/israeli-hydrop-technology-fights-fires-from-above>

By Naama Barak JANUARY 29, 2020



The bushfires raging through Australia and devastating the people, wildlife and nature in their way are a horribly grim reminder of the havoc that such blazes can wreak despite the valiant efforts to contain them. HyDrop, a new firefighting solution developed by Israeli defense contractor Elbit Systems, may one day help in similar situations. The high-altitude, high-precision aerial solution will enable firefighting from the air even during nighttime or in poor visibility conditions, meaning that critical operations won't have to come to a standstill come dark. In a recent demonstration of the solution, two aircraft from the Israeli Fire Fighting Squadron were directed to extinguish a

burning field. The aircraft flew at 500 feet, four times higher than the average altitude of firefighting sorties. Each of them launched 1.6 tons of tiny liquid pellets in a computed ballistic trajectory using the HyDrop system, achieving a precise hit with saturation of one to two liters per one square meter. Currently, liquid cascade drop methods require the aircraft to fly at a low altitude of 100 to 120 feet. These dangerously low sorties are restricted to daytime due to safety concerns and civil aviation regulations, hampering aerial operations at night. These pellets, Elbit says, can be filled with water, foam or fire retardant, and are biodegradable and leave no harmful residues.

RAFAEL's Drone Dome intercepts multiple maneuvering targets with LASER technology

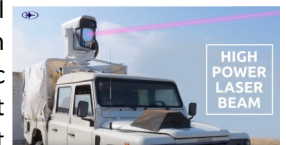
System achieves 100% success in all test scenarios.

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/275905>

Arutz Sheva Staff, 12/02/20

In a recent demo conducted in Israel, RAFAEL's Drone Dome C-UAS system performed interceptions of multiple drones, including maneuvering targets, using its hard-kill LASER BEAM director. The system achieved 100% success in all test scenarios. The stages of the interceptions included target detection, identification, and interception with a high-power LASER beam. Drone Dome is an innovative end-to-end C-UAS solution for securing air space from hostile drones. One of Drone Dome's unique capabilities is integrating laser technology for hard-kill capabilities. Drone Dome is designed to address threats posed by hostile drones both in military and civilian sites, offering advanced solutions for maneuvering

forces and military facilities, critical border protection, as well as civilian targets such as airports, public facilities, or any other sites that might be vulnerable to the increasing threat of both terror and criminal drones.



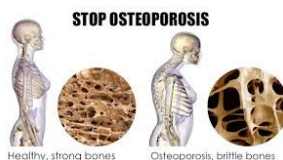
Drone Dome is a member of RAFAEL's family of active air and missile defense technologies, which includes the operational and combat-proven Iron Dome, David's Sling, and the SPYDER family. All together they make up a suite of multi-layered solutions against a variety of aerial threats.

Innovative new Osteoporosis treatment arrives at Hadassah Ein Kerem

<https://www.jpost.com/HEALTH-SCIENCE/Innovative-new-Osteoporosis-treatment-being-used-at-Hadassah-Ein-Kerem-618323>

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF

FEBRUARY 21, 2020



A new biological treatment for osteoporosis has been released in Israel at Hadassah Ein Kerem Medical Center, a disease which affects over one in two women, and one in five men over the age of fifty

each year. Osteoporosis is a disease that affects a large amount of the population, and according to Prof. Rebecca Dresner-Polk Director of the Endocrinology Department at Hadassah, "many suffer from the disease without knowing that they have it." People suffering from the disease usually are only made aware of it after breaking a bone after a minor injury, such as "breaking a rib after coughing, or a hip fracture after falling from just a short height."

The innovative treatment builds bones by way of a 'subcutaneous' injection, (an injection given between the skin and the muscle) and is given to patients suffering from severe osteoporosis once a month for up to a year. It is an antibody that works against the protein that inhibits bone formation.

"Strengthening of the bone prevents unnecessary fractures in patients and this is how we'll provide for their health and quality of their lives." Until now only one bone building drug has been used in Israel, Forteo, and there are many groups of people who are not able to receive the drug, such as women who have undergone radiation therapy for breast cancer. Usage of Forteo is limited to two years, but the new biological injection used at Hadassah can be given even after two years of the Forteo drug.

PURIM LAWS AND CUSTOMS

Purim 5780 begins on the evening of Monday, March 9th and ends at dark on Tuesday March 10th. Though sometimes thought of as a "minor holiday", because one is allowed to do work on that day unlike Shabbat and "major holidays", Purim celebrates the Jewish people being saved from total annihilation throughout the Persian empire. These events, described in the Megillat Esther, which we read publicly on Purim, took place some time between the 6th and 4th centuries B.C.E. (there are sources for several different time periods) before the Jews were allowed to return to Israel from exile and re-build the Temple. (For more detail see "From the Rabbi's Study on page 2.)

Considering how we appropriately mourn the various times in Jewish history when the Jewish people were subjected to slaughter and genocide, I often think that the celebration of avoiding such a catastrophe should be more deeply felt.

Purim is celebrated with four Mitzvot and several customs

- (1) Reading of the Megilla, preferably with a minyan in a synagogue, on both the evening and the day of Purim.



- (2) *Shalach Manot* (or *Mishloach Manot*): sending gifts of food to a friend. This Mitzvah is fulfilled by delivering two food items to at least one person, each requiring a different *Bracha* (blessing) before eating. For example, an orange and an apple are both fruit, the blessing before eating them is the same and therefore this does not fulfill the Mitzvah. Luckily, chocolate has a different blessing. Always a good thing to send along with the fruit! Same with wine or liquor.



- (3) *Matanot La'evyonim* (gifts to the poor): this Mitzvah is more important than *Shalach Manot* but unfortunately often receives less attention. This mitzvah is fulfilled by giving monetary charity to at least two poor people. This is often accomplished collectively by giving money beforehand or on Purim to the Rabbi (or anyone so designated) who will turn the money over to poor people.

- (4) *Seudat Purim*: having a festive meal on the day of Purim. This custom has been neglected in many communities, but is alive and well in many places in Israel as well as in the Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox communities in N.Y. and elsewhere. The Mitzvah of getting drunk "until one does not know the difference between Haman and Mordechai" during this meal, cited in the Talmud, has been interpreted literally and has also been interpreted as drinking more than one is accustomed to and going to sleep.



- (5) Among the other customs of Purim are making noise when Haman's name is mentioned during the reading of the megilla, eating Hamantashen and wearing masks or costumes.



February Family Shabbat Sponsors



The Berenson Family for Bruce's speedy and complete recovery from hip surgery and for Sharon Samet's complete recovery after breaking her ankle

Liliya Berezovsky and Alex Ratner in honor of the third birthday of their granddaughter, Julia Elena

Naomi and Leon Gukowsky in memory of the yahrzeit of Naomi's mother, Rose Dubin and in honor of the fifth birthday of their granddaughter, Claire Rose Gukowsky

Meryl Hoffmann in memory of the yahrzeits of Shirley Rosen and Dorothy Yaeger

Indra Mohabir in honor of Dorothy Schneider

Ellis Rosenblatt in memory of the yahrzeit of his cousin, Myrna Barron and in honor of Shirley Safran's birthday

SCHEDULE OF WHC CLASSES

(led by Rabbi Axelman)

Sundays @12:45 PM -- Talmud Class

The goal of this class is to reintroduce people to the wisdom of the Talmud. As Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz writes in Essential Talmud:

"The Talmud is a very hard book to define ... from content to style, every definition is incomplete or contradictory. ... The Talmud is completely unique--a book that has no parallel anywhere.... If the bible is the cornerstone of Judaism, then the Talmud is the central pillar, soaring up from the foundations and supporting the entire spiritual and intellectual edifice.... In many ways the Talmud is the most important book in Jewish culture, the backbone of creativity and of national life. No other work has had a comparable influence on the theory and practice of Jewish life, shaping spiritual content and serving as a guide to conduct.... [t]he Jewish people have always been keenly aware that their continued survival and development depend on study of the Talmud.

Mondays @7:30 PM -- Judaism 101

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Thank you for Donations -- February 2020

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In memory of Andrea Minsky
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If you would like to receive a copy of the bulletin by email, in addition to the printed version, please send your email address to haxelman@gmail.com and let us know. The email version appears in color and will reach you several days before the hard copy. Thank you!



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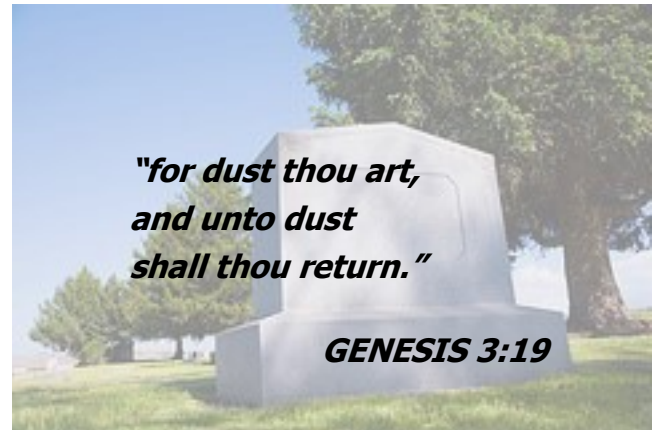
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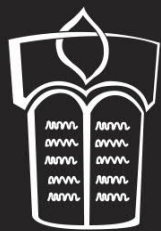
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