

Whitestone Hebrew Centre Bulletin

12-45 Clintonville St. Whitestone, NY 11357



שלום

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Volume XXXI No. 6

April 2022

Adar II — Nissan 5782



Schedule of Passover Services

Saturday, April 16th — 9:30 AM

Sunday, April 17th — 9:30 AM

Thursday April 21st — 7:00 PM

Friday April 22nd — 9:30 AM & 7:00 PM

Saturday, April 23rd — (Yizkor) 9:30 AM

President's Message

One of the things I've always found astonishing about the story of the Hebrews Exodus from Egypt is that a people miraculously liberated from the (at the time) greatest military force on earth, been shown signs and wonders as described in Torah, then assigned a singular status as God's own "Nation of Priests", still grumbled over their lot. At the extreme, pining for those carefree days of slavery and setting up an idol (the golden calf) in place of He who blessed them above and beyond any nation before or since. In general - showing an astonishing lack of faith. The newly freed Hebrews were raised as slaves and if they thought about it at all, must have reasoned that their God had deserted them. After some hundreds of years in bondage, whatever faith they started with would long since have been replaced with despair. With a few notable exceptions (like wiping out the Egyptian Army?) there was no foundation of faith in this generation, and so, no amount of intervention

by the Almighty could find a framework to build on. The tasks of conquering the Holy Land and building a Nation would be left to their free-born children -- children who knew God from birth and didn't need repetitive demonstrations of His grace. I had attended a lecture years ago -- and took note of comments by the guest speaker on faith. He said faith is not a trait that one picks up by the roadside to pocket or discard as needed. Rather, it needs to be carefully constructed over the course of a lifetime (beginning with the very young). But the sages also tell us the redemption from Egypt was not just so we could be free from oppression—it was so we would be free to serve God. The Exodus story is so powerful because it celebrates the formation of the Jewish people. Before the Exodus and giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai there really wasn't a "Jewish people." There were 12 tribes descended from Abraham, but

(Continued on page 4)



WHC Bulletin Staff

Rabbi Steven Axelman,
Editor
Sharon Samet
Patricia Smolker

WHITESTONE
HEBREW CENTRE
12-45 Clintonville St.
Whitestone, NY 11357
718-767-1500

Email:
Whitestonehebrewcentre
@gmail.com

Website:
whitestonehebrewcenter.org



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Rabbi Steven Axelman
rabbi.axelman@outlook.com
718-208-5059



Overview of Pesach

by Rabbi Axelman



Following is a brief overview of the observance of Pesach: Per several verses in the biblical Book of

Exodus, one is not allowed to eat, possess or derive any benefit from *chametz* during Pesach. *Chametz* is any food containing flour that has come into contact with water, and not baked quickly (e.g., bread, cake, cookies, pasta, pretzels, etc.). In most years, a ritual "search" for *chametz* is conducted in the home on the evening before Pesach, and any *chametz* that is found is burned the next morning, along with any other *chametz* in one's possession. This year this search for Chametz is performed on Thursday evening, April 14th. Some of my fondest childhood memories are being awakened very early by my father, who before leaving for work, would let us all go into the backyard in our pajamas to burn the chametz in our garbage can. As fire departments have become less enamored of this custom, to my knowledge, in most communities special arrangements are made with the fire department to burn all of the community's *chametz* at one time and in one place. After burning the *chametz*, a short declaration is made, through which one gives up ownership of and nullifies any *chametz* that s/he may not be aware is in his or her possession. The first Seder this year is celebrated Friday night, April 15th. Since we are already in Daylight Savings Time by then, nightfall is quite late and it is preferable not to start the Seder until nightfall; if that is not possible, one should

try to eat matzah after nightfall. The second Seder is celebrated Saturday



night April 16th. The Seder is specifically designed to communicate to children the story of our exodus from Egypt. (We hope that with the waning of the Covid-19 epidemic, families will once again have the opportunity to be physically together for the Seder.) The Seder table is set up to include things not normally on a table so as to stir the curiosity of children. Since its inception, the Seder focused on answering the four questions, known as "*mah nishtana*", traditionally recited by the youngest attendee. In the place of bread, matzah is eaten as part of the Seder. One reason for the commandment to eat matzah at the Seder is to remember that the Jews were rushed on their way out of Egypt and therefore their bread did not have time to rise. Matzah is also referred to as the bread of the poor man, commemorating the years of slavery that preceded the exodus. Bitter herbs, known as *maror*, are eaten to remember the sad and difficult times of slavery. Four cups of wine are drunk, symbolizing the wording of God's promise to the Jews while they were in Egypt. It is customary to recline while eating and drinking at the Seder, to re-enact the freedom that was gained with the Exodus. A well-known custom is the "stealing" of the Afikoman, a broken piece of matzah which is hidden during the Seder, challenging the

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SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood President's Message

Sisterhood wishes everyone a Happy, Healthy, Safe and Zissen Pesach. Please do a mitzvah and call our senior members to ask if they need anything or just to chat for a while. Hearing a friendly voice will lift their spirits.

Shalach Manot

Thank you to all who participated in our annual Purim mitzvah known as Shalach Manot. Although this year our Shalach Manot fundraiser was different, everyone who sent and received Shalach Manot shares in this mitzvah. This Purim mitzvah is only surpassed by the giving of charity on this holiday. Yasher Koach to everyone.



Lilian Gradofsky
Patricia Smolker
Shalach Manot Co-Chairs

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".

Thank You For Additional Shalach Manot Donations

Bonnie Buxbaum
Lilian Gradofsky
Naomi and Leon Gukowsky
Ellen Mishkin

April Happy Birthdays



Alu Axelman	Barbara Parker
Ivy Chait	Patricia Smolker
Anna Fussteig	Danielle Yamen
Hannah Kohn	Jori Young

*Editor's note: If your birthday should be listed on this page and is not, please call the office at (718) 767-1500 and give us your date of birth. Thank you.

Holocaust Remembrance Day

Never Forget. Never Again.

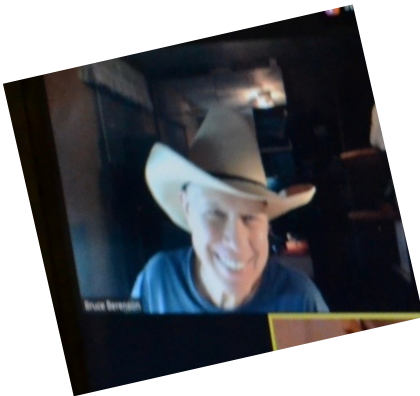


Thursday April 28th

Best Wishes for a
speedy and complete recovery

Evelyn Apter
Bruce Berenson





Megilla reading at WHC and on Zoom—March 16th
(Photos courtesy of Jeffrey Young)

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

it wasn't until we left Egypt and received the Torah that we really became the Jewish people. Acknowledge who we are, no matter how far we may have strayed from God's original command that we be to Him a "Nation of Priests". Let me say again what I firmly believe; there is no one among us whose life is so wretched they can't find a hundred reasons to thank

God every day for His blessings. I invite you all to visit Him in His house, whether by Zoom or in person (there is plenty of room to distance per your comfort level) as free men and women to return the favor. Chag Kasher L'Pesach.

Bruce Berenson



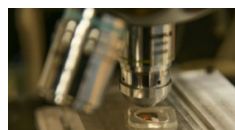
Recent positive news generated by Israel, of which we can all be proud.
(Articles below are excerpts of originals only)



Israeli-developed drug enhances chemotherapy, revives immune system

April 5, 2022

worldisraelnews.com



Israeli scientists have developed a nanoparticle that does two jobs -it enhances the effectiveness of chemotherapy and reinvigorates the immune system. Researchers from Tel

Aviv University proved that a drug delivery system based on lipid nanoparticles can utilize RNA to overcome resistance to both chemotherapy and immunotherapy in cancer treatments, and opens a new path to a personalized and precisely targeted battle against cancer. Chemo-immunotherapy, which combines chemotherapy with immunotherapy, is considered the most advanced standard of care for various types of cancer. While chemotherapy destroys cancer cells, immunotherapy encourages the cells of the immune system to identify and attack the remaining cancer cells. However, many patients fail to respond to chemo-immunotherapy, which means that the treatment is not sufficiently targeted. Prof.

Peer and his team are the first in the world to prove the feasibility of a drug delivery system based on lipid nanoparticles that release their load only at the specifically targeted cells – cancer cells for chemotherapy and immune cells for immunotherapy. “Our new nano-drug knows how to precisely target the cancer cells, silence the enzyme, and expose the tumor to chemotherapy, without causing any damage to surrounding healthy cells,” stated Peer. “Afterward, the same nanoparticle goes on to the T-cells of the immune system and reprograms them to identify cancer cells. Active, highly aggressive tumors are able to conceal themselves from the immune system, and we restore the immune cells’ ability to recognize cancer as a foreign body and attack it,” he said. “This is the first instance of a single drug based on an RNA-loaded nanoparticle doing two very different, even opposite jobs,” added Prof. Peer. “This is only an initial study, but it has enormous potential in the ongoing fight against cancer.”

Israeli scientists find breakthrough treatment for cancer patients

March 27, 2022

worldisraelnews.com

Israeli scientists and researchers have been at the forefront of extensive studies and cutting-edge treatments of cancer over the past several decades. Most recently, researchers at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev have discovered a innovative treatment with the potential to significantly help patients suffering from advanced head and neck cancer (HNC), the university announced in a press release Sunday. The research, published in the “Journal for Immunotherapy of Cancer” on March 15, shows that the treatment reduces the proliferation of tumor cells while activating and strengthening the immune system. The treatment blocks the hyper-activation of a specific cell-signaling pathway that is found in over 40% of HNC patients. Israeli scientists have long taken significant steps in

the fight against cancer. In 2018, researchers at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology successfully treated a cancerous tumor using artificial, synthetic cell technology, published in the medical magazine, “Advanced Healthcare Materials.” Barcode Diagnostics, a start-up company founded by Professor Avi Schroeder, is a personalized cancer drug screening that focuses on delivering medicine through nanotechnology directly to the organ in need of treatment. According to Innovation Israel, Professor Schroeder believes that mankind will have a solution for most types of cancer-related problems by 2030.



Israeli tech’s record-breaking year

January 24, 2022

worldisraelnews.com



Much news has been shared about Israeli high-tech’s record-breaking year in 2021, but a new report by local venture capital firm Viola has outlined just how much growth Startup Nation has experienced as we move on from the two-year Covid-19 pandemic. The report, “Israel Tech Ecosystem 2021: Breaking Records in a Record-Breaking Year” is going live tomorrow and dives into details regarding success sectors, the growth of unicorn companies, and the sheer number of

M&As that took place last year. Rotem Shaham, Principal at Viola Ventures and one of the report’s authors, called the numbers coming out of 2021 “groundbreaking”. Tomer Meridor, Principal at Viola Growth and its second author, highlighted megarounds as “the big issue this year”. The report shows how megarounds – rounds valued at more than \$100 million – made up more than half of the \$27 billion, totaling \$14.2 billion and 52.5% of all money in 2021.

(continued on next page)

Using New Technology, Israel Aims To Make More Livers Available For Transplantation

January 23, 2022

[Matzav.com](https://www.matzav.com)



For the first time in Israel, donor liver machine perfusion (MP) was performed before transplantation, and the improved liver was successfully transplanted into a patient, the Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center reports. MP is a preservation method that has been developed to reduce the incidence and severity of donor liver injury and to improve outcomes after organ transplantation, said Dr. Yaacov Goykhman, head of the Organ

Transplant Unit at the hospital. "Liver transplantation is a life-saving and complicated procedure because of the patients' medical conditions, the complexity of liver transplantation and because the organ can only survive outside the body for a short period of time," he told JNS. "This [liver MP] is a significant event that could revolutionize liver transplantation in Israel." He said in recent years, technology has been developed for the perfusion of the liver with a machine for the purpose of improving the organ and better evaluating its function.

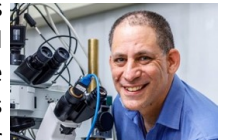
Hebrew U Scientists: 1/1000 of a Hair-Thin Lenses Coming Soon to Cellphones, Eyeglasses & Drones

March 28, 2022

www.jewishpress.com

Perhaps you are wearing glasses while reading this or have a cell phone, binoculars, a virtual reality headset, or a telescope. All of them rely on high-quality lenses, which are bulky, expensive, and heavy—especially when considering drones and satellites, where every gram counts. However, that is all about to change. New, cheap, lightweight flat lenses – around a thousandth of the thickness of a human hair – will be making their move the research labs to our shops and homes. Currently, there are several kinds of flat-lens technologies available. However, the challenge is to know which version is best suited for the specific application for which it was designed. This problem has been solved by Professor Uriel Levy, Director of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HU)'s Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, together with postdoc student Dr. Jacob Engelberg. They established a

standard method to compare flat-lens technologies and designs and published their findings in the leading journal Nature Photonics (Standardizing flat lens characterization). New, flat lenses offer clear advantages over conventional lenses. With conventional lenses, the "stronger" the lens (the higher the prescription), the greater the curvature. Further, the larger the lens diameter, the thicker the lens. This has implications—in both weight and size—for products, such as consumer electronics, cellphones, VR headsets, and drones where the push is to make them as light as possible. The new flat lenses are incredibly thin and as the name suggests – they are flat rather than curved.



Merkava IV: Israel Might Have The World's Best Tank

April 5, 2022

www.19fortyfive.com



Last July, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) announced that it had formed the first all-female armored Merkava IV company to defend the country's frontier as part of the mixed-gender Caracal Battalion. The unit was stationed along the Egyptian border for the first time, as part of an ongoing pilot program to assess the feasibility of female armored crews – who had completed their training at the IDF's Shizafon Base in the Negev desert. It was only in 2020 that the IDF launched the pilot program to determine if women could serve in the tank units, after a previous trial from 2017 to 2018 was deemed inconclusive. The units will operate the Merkava IV tanks, which have been outfitted with the latest capabilities and technological systems that the IDF has to offer. The 65-ton Merkava IV is the latest in a series of main battle tanks (MBTs) that were developed by the IDF and which remain the backbone of the IDF's armored corps. Development of the first

Merkava – which means "Chariot" in Hebrew – began in the mid-1970s. It was designed by General Israel Tal following the armored clashes of the Yom Kippur War and after the failure to purchase Chieftain tanks from the United Kingdom. The goal of the domestically-build tank was to create a platform that could take on Soviet tanks that were in service with many of Israel's Arab rivals. The Merkava IV is equipped with a computer-controlled fire control system that includes line-of-sight stabilization in two axis, a second-generation television sight and automatic thermal target tracker, a laser range finder, an improved thermal night vision system and a dynamic cant angle indicator. The tank commander's station in the turret is fitted with a stabilized panoramic day and night sight. The tank's integrated operating system provides advanced data communications and battle management. The tank is capable of firing on the move even at moving targets.



Thank you for Donations -- March 2022

Yahrzeit

Ralph Baer

Howard Newman

Eva Weiss

Melvin Mesnick

Alex Ratner and Liliya Berezovsky

Jeffrey Young and Judi Glass

General Donations

**Thank you to Ellis Rosenblatt
for his generous donation for the Shabbat meals and to
Rebbetzin Sharon for her tireless delivery service**

Shirley and Frank Smith

In honor of Ellis Rosenblatt

Jeffrey Young and Judi Glass



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

(Continued from page 2)

children to find it and return it in exchange for a present. The Haggada, the written guide to the Seder, consists in large part of answers to the child's questions, relating the Exodus story through quotes and commentaries on the Biblical story. The seventh day of Pesach commemorates the splitting of the sea, which allowed the Jews to escape the pursuit of the Egyptians. The Torah Portion read on that day relates this story. In many synagogues, especially in Israel, this day is celebrated by large crowds gathering and singing the whole night through, commemorating the song that was

recited after the splitting of the sea. The schedule of Holiday services is printed on the front page of this bulletin and we hope to see as many of our members as possible in person. For those who absolutely cannot attend for health reasons, we will continue to stream Services on Zoom. Best wishes to all for a Chag Kasher V'samayach--a Happy, Healthy and Kosher Pesach!

- Rabbi Axelman

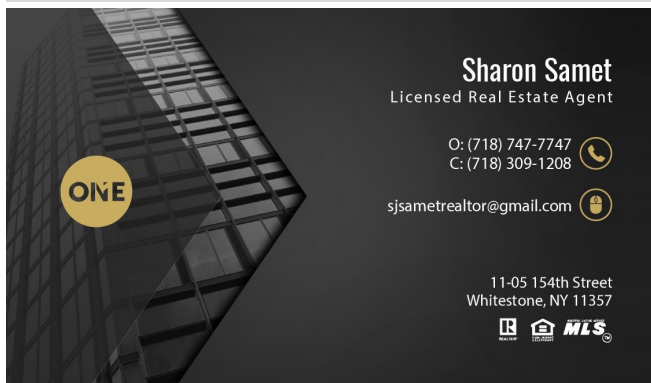


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S



Sharon Samet
Licensed Real Estate Agent

O: (718) 747-7747
C: (718) 309-1208

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JAMES A. CAPPA
Attorney - At - Law

42-40 Bell Blvd.
Suite 206
Bayside, NY 11361

Benjamin Moore
Whitestone Hardware

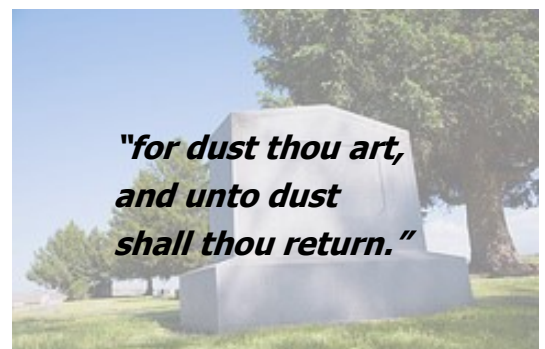


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12-48 150th Street
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Phone: 718-767-9546
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Burial Plots Available
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Cemetery Committee Chair
at WHC (718) 767-1500



SCHEDULE OF WHC CLASSES

(led by Rabbi Axelman)

Mondays @7:00 PM -- Judaism 101 Explore Your Questions



Please check our website for updated days and times of classes.
Currently classes are being streamed on zoom and not being held in person.