

Whitestone Hebrew Centre Bulletin

12-45 Clintonville St. Whitestone, NY 11357



שלום

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Volume XXXIV No. 4

April - May 2024

Nissan — Iyar 5784



Schedule of Passover Services

Tuesday April 23rd — 9:30 AM

Wednesday April 24th — 9:30 AM

Sunday April 28th — 7:00 PM

Monday April 29th — 9:30 AM & 7:00 PM

Tuesday April 30th — (Yizkor) 9:30 AM

President's Message

Passover 2024 (or 5784 by Hebrew reckoning) is here - just as we scarcely finished our celebrations of Purim. I remember it was our beloved Rabbi who once said Purim is considered a warm up for Pesach. Considering the 4 special Shabbatot Torah readings - two of which connect the Yom Tovs, and the principal subject matter (our overcoming extinction via a single catastrophic event in the case of Purim, vs slow annihilation by slave labor and humiliation by the Egyptians described in the Haggadah) - it does appear they are very much intertwined. In these times - it's near impossible to not consider how the current troubles in the Holy Land relate to our long ago battles for nationhood, freedom and survival. It has always infuriated the world that we won't capitulate, lay down, assimilate or just plain go away. The outsized influence given our few numbers has always been resented. The same groups who claim the Bible for their own (or at least pay lip service to what is written there) have neglected what G-d Himself said in Vaetchanan (Deuteronomy

7:7), Moses, who has been barred from accompanying his people just prior to their entry, stands before them, reminding them of their promises to God and of their responsibilities in their new land. At the close of the portion, he reminds them that although they are small and seemingly powerless, they were chosen by God saying... "It is not because you are the most numerous of peoples that the Lord set His heart on you and chose you — indeed, you are the smallest of peoples..." No country has been more pilloried and condemned by the nations of the world than the State of Israel, yet this small country has produced innovations in medicine, agriculture, technology and the arts disproportionate to its size. We have outlived all the world's great empires, and despite the current conflicts, Israel today still towers above them all through our People's advancement of that which is best in human heritage. I wish you and your families chag Pesach kasher vesame'ach



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Naomi Gukowsky

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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 Sunday evening, April 21st. 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 with 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 Monday night, April 22nd. 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 Tuesday night



April 23rd. The Seder is specifically designed to communicate to children the story of our exodus from Egypt. 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 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

(Continued on page 4)

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood President's Message

Sisterhood wishes everyone a Happy, Healthy, Safe and Zissen Pesach. We all pray that there will be peace in Israel and also around the world. 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.

Naomi Gukowsky
Sisterhood President



April Happy Birthdays

Alu Axelman	Patricia Smolker
Anna Fussteig	Danielle Yamen
Hannah Kohn	Jori Young


May Happy Birthdays

Binny Axelman	Kathryn Safran
Melvin Mesnick	

*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.

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.



Lilian Gradofsky
Patricia Smolker

Prayer for the Sick

If you would like a name mentioned in the weekly Prayer for the Sick, please email the name of the sick person and the name of that person's mother (if available) to the Rabbi, at rabbiaxelman@outlook.com. If you do not have access to email, please leave a message on the WHC office voice mail. There are names on our list for a very long time and we have no way of knowing who are still in need of prayers. Thank you.



Rabbi Axelman

Thank You For Additional Shalach Manot Donations

Naomi and Leon Gukowsky
Ellen Mishkin

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".



Services — Sunday May 5th at 7:45 PM



Megilla reading at WHC —March 23rd (Photos courtesy of Jeffrey Young)

Mazel Tov!



Mazel Tov to the Rabbi and Rebbetzin on the upcoming graduation of Binny from UNC Law School on May 10th. He plans to begin his career as an attorney in Charlotte, NC in the late summer.

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

(Continued from page 2)

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. Best wishes to all for a Chag Kasher V'samayach--a Happy, Healthy and Kosher Pesach!

- Rabbi Axelman



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



Hadassah named as 1 of world's best smart hospitals

israelnationalnews.com

Mar 14, 2023



Hadassah Ein Karem Hospital

Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) was named as one of the world's leading hospitals in oncology, cardiology and smart technologies, according to Newsweek's 2024 global rankings.

HMO is listed alongside leading hospitals including Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic, Mount Sinai and Johns Hopkins in the United States, and large centers from Europe, South America and elsewhere. The hospital ranking report published by the magazine presents 300 hospitals from around the world with the best departments in the fields of oncology, cardiology and other specialties. The ranking was determined based on more than 20,000 recommendations from thousands of medical experts. The editors of the magazine emphasize that in addition to the recommendations collected, the lists have been verified by a global committee of renowned medical experts. Newsweek also ranks the world's leading smart hospitals, which, according to the ranking

authors, employ the most advanced technologies in the provision of medical care, and make use of, among other things, advanced virtual and imaging technologies, the latest digital systems, and decisions based on artificial intelligence and robotics. "Utilizing these innovative technologies not only improves health care outcomes and hospital efficiency, but also promotes hospitals as an integral part of a broader global ecosystem, leading to international goals of health, prevention, population health promotion and improved quality of life," Newsweek stressed. HMO Director General Prof. Yoram Weiss said: "Hadassah Medical Center has made it its mission to provide professional and quality medicine to all who come to its gates and stands alongside the leading centers in Israel and around the world." "Advanced medicine and Hadassah's significant contribution to the advancement of the field of health is made possible thanks to groundbreaking research and smart, independent leading technologies, developed in-house."

Cutting the cord: Will Israel's Wi-Charge transform the future of power?

Maayan Jaffe-Hoffman March 3, 2024

jpost.com

In a world where wires still dominate the landscape of power transfer, a new revolution is quietly unfolding: wireless power transmission. Imagine the convenience of charging your smartphone or electric toothbrush without ever needing to hunt for an outlet or untangle a mess of cords. Picture a digital display at the edge of a supermarket shelf, silently drawing power from what appears to be thin air to illuminate product details or sales. This futuristic scenario is not just a figment of the imagination. It's Wi-Charge. Wi-Charge, founded a decade ago by Israeli technologists, has only recently started gaining traction. The company created what it calls "AirCord" technology, which lets you power devices from a distance. It uses infrared (IR) technology to send power wirelessly to various devices. The Wi-Charge system works like this: Plug the transmitters into regular power outlets or track lighting. These transmitters change electricity into safe infrared beams. They then find the nearby devices and send them the infrared energy. Each device needs a Wi-Charge receiver attached to it. These receivers catch the infrared beams and turn them back into electricity. This electricity charges up the device's battery or a capacitor, which the device uses to power itself up. The founders of the company – Ori Mor, Ortal Alpert, and Victor Vaisleib – had a very successful history in Israel's hi-tech

industry before Wi-Charge. Communication with wireless devices unleashed a \$3 trillion industry and changed our lives forever. "But there was just one thing: this annoying chord," Mor said, holding a white charger in one hand. "It's a hassle to charge. So, we decided to solve it." Mor said he wasn't sure if it were "stupidity, naivety, or optimism" that got them started, but the journey turned out to be far more complex than they initially expected. It took them eight years of deep research and development. Now, Wi-Charge can be found in devices in 10 countries, including powering advertising signs in retail stores, in Alfred intelligent door locks in residential buildings, in some touchless appliances in hotels, and soon to be implemented in other public spaces, office buildings, and hopefully homes. Mor showed numerous videos of Wi-Charge's system in action. Mor said his dream is "The light fixtures will be embedded with wireless charging. When you build your house, the architect will ask how many wireless electricity points you want, just like they ask how many electricity points you want today."



(continued on next page)

Israel was not created to appease its foreign allies. There is nobody and nothing for which to apologize.

As Jabotinsky said about such cases, we must fold our arms and calmly tell our accusers to "go to Hell." Op-ed.

Ronn Torossian Mar 26, 2024

israelnationalnews.com



We face an existential threat to our existence by an enemy who massacred us in a way we haven't seen since the Holocaust and continues to sit on our border saying they will do so again. The world condemns us because we choose to live. On March 5, 2024, the US shamefully refrained from using a veto to block a UN Security Council resolution backed by Russia and China that called for a ceasefire without conditioning it on the release of hostages. This is a stab in the back of Israel during a time of war. Rightfully, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has cancelled the planned trip to Washington by top aides to discuss the impending Rafah invasion. There will be no Palestinian Arab state. Israel must invade Rafah. There will not be a surrender to terror. The entire people of Israel demand Hamas be destroyed. This is a sad day for America-Israel relations, but Israel wasn't created to please a foreign ally. It was created to ensure the Jewish people will always be protected, and that is the case whether America likes it or not. The ideological forefather father of the Likud Party, Ze'ev Jabotinsky in 1911 wrote an article which spoke about times like this called, "Go To Hell." As Jabotinsky, "Instead of excessive apology and instead of turning our backs to the accusers – as there is nothing to apologize for, and nobody to apologize to – it is long overdue to respond to all current and future accusations, reproaches, suspicions, slanders and denunciations by simply folding our arms and loudly, clearly, coldly and calmly answer, 'Go to Hell!' "Who are we, to make excuses to them; who are they to interrogate us? What is the purpose of this mock trial over the entire people where the

sentence is known in advance? Our habit of constantly and zealously answering to any rabble has already done us a lot of harm and will do much more. The situation that has been created as a result, tragically confirms a well-known saying: 'Qui s'excuse s'accuse' (He who apologizes condemns himself). "We think that our constant readiness to undergo a search without hesitation and to turn out our pockets will eventually convince mankind of our nobility; look what gentlemen we are –we do not have anything to hide! This is a terrible mistake. The real gentlemen are the people that will not allow anyone for any reason to search their apartments, their pockets or their souls. Only a person under surveillance is ready for a search at every moment. This is the only inevitable conclusion from our maniacal reaction to every reproach, to accept responsibility as a people for every action of a Jew, and to make excuses in front of everybody. I consider this system to be false at its very root. We are hated not because we are blamed for everything, but we are blamed for everything because we are not loved. We do not have to apologize for anything. We are a people as all other peoples; we do not have any intentions to be better than the rest. We do not have to account to anybody; we are not to sit for anybody's examination and nobody is old enough to call on us to answer. We came before them. We are what we are, we are good for ourselves, we will not change and we do not want to." We will do what must be done no matter who likes it. The whole world doesn't like what we do? Its ok. Zionism and the Jewish state is more important than public approval.

SCHEDULE OF WHC CLASSES

(led by Rabbi Axelman)

Sundays @ Time TBA -- Talmud Class

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.



Thank you for Donations -- March 2024

Yahrzeit

Jean & Richard Appel
 Barbara Bernfeld
 Barry Brown
 Howard Davidoff
 Lilian Gradofsky

Francine Kerner Klein
 Melinda Kizner
 Samuel & Margarita Mayer
 Melvin Mesnick
 Alex Ratner
 Ellis Rosenblatt

Adele Rothman
 Sidney Rothstein
 Michele Splain
 Pamela Tanenbaum
 Jeffrey Young & Judi Glass

General Donations

Wishing Joel Mayer good luck on his new job

Samuel & Margarita Mayer

Kiddush in honor of their birthdays

Ron Kohn and Ellis Rosenblatt



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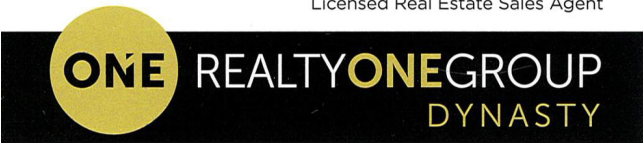


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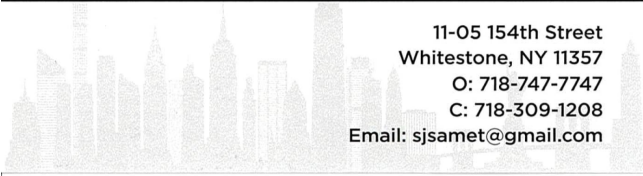


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