



# KOL EZRAS ISRAEL



## Rabbi's Message

A few weeks ago, we received a phone call from someone who needed help with their mother at the Hebrew home. When I mentioned that I would like to go and visit my daughter immediately perked up. "I would love to go and visit at the Hebrew Home each Shabbos", was her enthusiastic response to my comment. This got me thinking. A few weeks ago, I was privileged to speak at the Bikkur Cholim Melave Malka. This conversation with my daughter brought my feelings at that time to the fore. When learning about our Avos and Imahos in the past Parshios, we see time and again, incidents portraying acts of chessed. Avrohom Avinu was a paragon of Chessed. His home was open to all. We see that even when Avrohom had just received a bris millah and was not well, he was so distressed over not having guests that Hashem sent malachim (angels) in the form of guests his way. Avrohom, who was wealthy and had many servants, still ran to serve them himself. We also see this same love of chessed in Rivka, who ran to draw water for Eliezer and all of his camels on her own. We even see that when Avrohom was sick, Hashem came to visit him. The one uniting factor in all of these is that the chessed was not delegated to others. Hashem could have sent others to visit Avrohom. Avrohom could have sent his servants to serve his guests. Rivka could have tried to

get Eliezer help from others who had more strength than a young girl. But that is not what happened.

This is the Jewish way of chessed. No job is below us when it comes to helping others. Bikkur Cholim is an organization that is involved with the pursuit of Chessed. They represent the unique brand of chessed that epitomizes the Jewish Nation. We look for chances to do chessed rather than just wait for opportunities to do chessed to present themselves. We, living in Rockville, are constantly presented with numerous such opportunities. Reflecting upon what my daughter said made me realize about our own chances to do chessed in our own backyard. Acting upon this inspiration, I feel that we as a group are uniquely positioned to take upon ourselves this special act of chessed, visiting the elderly and the sick in our neighborhood. With some planning, together we can accomplish much. Anyone who feels able to join in this endeavor, please contact me so that we can join together in performing this special mitzvah. Looking forward to hearing from you as we, Be'ezrat Hashem, join together to perform this mitzvah..

I wish you all a Chanukah Someach—Happy Chanukah.

## Kosher Korner

By Uri Fastovsky  
*There is a saying "There is no business like show business", same goes for the kosher business. In the past couple of years, we have seen the kosher business grow from a select few products, to aisles of kosher food in the supermarket. We have come a long way from the time a simple K was enough, and having to check the ingredients. Nowadays most products in the supermarket have some kind of kosher supervision. With 1031 kosher agencies around the world (according to Kashrus Magazine 2010), this can be bewildering. The question comes up as to which of these agencies is reliable. With so many rabbis involved in the process. This is a big money making income. There is a way to find out about a certain agency, by calling the Star-K, Vaad Hakashrut of Baltimore. Their number is (410)484-4110. This is a very reliable agency, and they can tell a person which symbols can be relied upon. They will not say whether*

This issue inaugurates Uri Fastovsky as the new Kol Ezras Israel editor. The Board wishes to thank Michael Richman for his very capable service as newsletter editor for the past three years. We also express our appreciation for Uri's willingness to step in and take over this important shul function. We thank Uri for starting his tenure with a new byline: "Kosher Korner" We wish Uri hatzlacha and b'sorot tovat in his tenure.

*a product is kosher or not, because that can get them in trouble legally, but they can say whether a product is recommended or not. We have also come a long way in the kosher restaurant business. From two kosher restaurants, Nuthouse and Jaffa Gate. twenty years ago, to thirteen and growing in the Washington Area alone. We have also witnessed in the last couple of years, that claiming to be kosher is sometimes not enough. Such as the fiasco with Rubashkin, where the government claims they hired illegal aliens to work in their plants. We also had a local fiasco with the DCJCC Café, where treif meat was found on the premises by a vigilant Mashgiach. This goes to show that today's environment is very conducive for growth In the kosher business for many years to come.*



## President's Message

## Shul News

### New Mincha/Maariv Service

Our regular daily weekday service has been augmented to include both a Mincha and Maariv service during the month of December. Services will begin at 4:30 PM in Activity Room #3 at the Ring House.

If we get enough interest to continue the service permanently, we hope to schedule it daily in the same location to start at approximately the following Shabbat's candle lighting time .

### New Jewish History Classes

Rabbi Kreiser is organizing a weekly Jewish History series of classes focusing on the first half of the second millennium (ca. the years 1000 to 1500). Topics will include Maimonides (Rambam), Rabbi Gershon etc. Stay on the alert for class schedule details which have not yet been finalized at press time.

### A Family Sefer Torah ( ספר ) to be Dedicated in the Spring

A recently refurbished family sefer Torah, smuggled out of communist Romania in the sixties will be dedicated for use by our shul in spring—before Shavouth - Zman Matan Torateinu. Look for details in the next edition of Kol Ezras Israel.

### 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 Chumash

There are opportunities to sponsor a new Chumash for the shul - \$50 to sponsor a regular Stone Edition Chumash, and \$36 for a combined Stone Chumash/Siddur Travel Edition. Please contact Rachmil Jacobovits (via e-mail milujaco@gmail.com or by phone at 301-461-4983).

I am pleased to report that we had a successful High Holiday season this year. While attendance was lower than in previous years, our net income was close to what it was last year – which is important, because the High Holidays are one of our three major sources of revenue. This was our second year with Larry Schor as our Hazan, and our 11th with Rabbi Kreiser as our spiritual leader. Rabbi Kreiser explained to us, among other things, what we learn from the halacha that we do not blow Shofar when Rosh HaShana falls out on Shabbat, what determines whether we benefit from reciting the 13 attributes of G-D (a common theme during these chagim), whether we can change the decree made on Yom Kippur by prayer at other times of the year (yes, we can), the importance of detailing our sins when we confess them, and the importance of proper speech. Yes, we certainly put him to work this time of year.

I am also pleased to report that we had very good results for our Simchat Torah auction.

(A reminder to those who have not yet paid for High Holiday tickets, lulav and esrog sets, and Simchat Torah auction bids to please do so promptly.)

In this regard, I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped with the High Holidays, including planning and set-up, and all those who helped with the construction and de-construction of the Sukkah. (The names are listed in our “Yasher Koach” column on page 3 – my apologies if we missed anyone.)

We are currently working on planning for the Chanukah Dinner and the Annual Dinner. We hope to update you on the Annual Dinner by the end of the year. and by now you should have made your reservations with Sheldon Needle for Shabbat Chanukah Dinner for Friday evening, December 4.

Otherwise, the shul is largely the same as it has been – which is consistent with my promise in the summer newsletter to highlight continuity.

On a completely different subject, I want to let people know about a project I undertook earlier this year. The shul has a collection of glass yahrzeit plaques from the DC incarnation of Ezras Israel. I have created an index of those yahrzeit plaques, which I hope to post on the Ezras Israel website. In the meantime, if you would like me to look up a name or forward a picture of a particular plaque (I have photographs of all of them), let me know.

I look forward to writing to you again in the spring.

Michael Richman

*In silence there is peace.  
In beauty there is hope.  
In nature there is life.  
In solace there is a  
Garden of Remembrance.*

The Garden of Remembrance is like a beautiful painting that speaks to our souls. It welcomes every member of the Jewish community as their final resting place. It touches our hearts as we come here to remember loved ones who have passed before us. And each season it helps heal and restore us with its graceful beauty. Come and find solace here in our Garden of Remembrance.

To learn more, call Morris Altschuler, 301.770.5591, or visit [www.gardenofremembrance.org](http://www.gardenofremembrance.org) for more information.

**Garden of Remembrance**  
GAN ZIKARON MEMORIAL PARK

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10 Years of Caring Service, Eternal Peace and Beauty

## 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)

### Mazel Tov



- To Michael & Nechama Fellner & family on the birth of a daughter, Chaya Batya / Allison Beth
- To Mark Lautman on the engagement of his son
- To Rose Glasner on the marriage of her grandson

**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>

### Farewell to:

Dr. Issi Barbash and family, moving to Kemp Mill

### Yasher Koach

High Holiday set-up and clean up – Rachmil Jacobovits, Mordechai Yahoodain, Vahid Yahoodain, Charlene Disler, Sheldon Needle, Aron Kreiser & friend, Jordan Grubic, Mark Chaimovich, Issi Barbash

Rosh HaShana baby sitting – Sandra Katz

High Holiday page turning – Stu Graf

Farid & Ramesh Zadeh & family, for sponsoring a post-Yom Kippur break-fast

Sukkah set-up – Vahid Yahoodain, Mordechai Yahoodain, Alan Bronowitz, Jared Lempel, Jeremy Jacobson, Gil Katz

Dr. Lee and Rita Berlad, for donating 10 Chumashim in memory of his father.

All those who participated in the Simchat Torah auction

### For sponsoring a kiddush

- Joe Weinberg, on the unveiling of the Matzeiva for his beloved wife Ruth
- Mark Lautman, celebrating his new job and his son Ronen making aliya to Israel
- Beril Sinnreich, on his mother's yahrzeit
- Hazzan Robert Kieval, on the anniversary of his Bar-Mitzvah
- Doreen Blech, on the yahzeit of her mother Rita Wacks z"l
- June Graf, on the yahrzeit of her mother Rachel Mannheimer z"l
- Rabbi Eliezer Kreiser, in honor of daughter Rivka's birth and naming.
- Jerry Roschwalb, on the yahrzeit of his mother Irene Roschwalb z"l
- Rachmil Jacobovits, on the yahrzeit of his mother Misie Devorah bat Moshe Dov z"l
- Michael & Naomi Weinberger in honor of their son Akiva's 10th birthday

### Condolences



Manny Rosen on the passing of his brother Joe Rosen / Yosef Zev ben David

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 301.881.0647  
 Support Israel—buy Israeli products  
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 10% of profits go to Congregation  
 Ezras Israel

Memorialize a loved one  
 Donate a Machzor, Siddur or Chumash  
 Call Rachmil at 301-770-4342 or 301-461-4984 or  
 e-mail milujaco@gmail.net

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 **Odette Goldberg** - 301-468-0108 or by  
 e-mail [odettegoldberg@gmail.com](mailto:odettegoldberg@gmail.com) or reserve online at  
[www.ezrasisrael.org](http://www.ezrasisrael.org)

**Minyan Times Luach Hazmanim**

Date	Day	Parsha - Chag - Event	Candle Lighting	Friday / Erev Yom Tov Mincha	Shabbat / Yom Tov Mincha	Shabbat / Yom Tov Ends
12-Dec	Fri-Sat	Vayeshhev - Chanukah (1st candle) - Mev. Tzeit (Thu-Fri)	4:28	4:30	4:15	5:30
19-Dec	Fri-Sat	Mikeitz - Chanukah (8th candle)	4:30	4:30	4:15	5:33
26-Dec	Fri-Sat	Vayigash	4:34	4:35	4:20	5:37
27-Dec	Sun	Fast of 10 Tevet (fast begins 6:14am, ends 5:37pm)	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
1-Jan	Fri-Sat	Vayechi	4:39	4:40	4:25	5:42
8-Jan	Fri-Sat	Shemot-Mevorchim Shevat (Sat)	4:45	4:45	4:30	5:48
15-Jan	Fri-Sat	Vaera-Rosh Chodesh	4:52	4:50	4:35	5:54
22-Jan	Fri-Sat	Bo	5:00	5:00	4:45	6:02
29-Jan	Fri-Sat	Beshalach (Shabbat Shira) Tu B'Shvat	5:08	5:10	4:55	6:09
5-Feb	Fri-Sat	Yitro	5:16	5:15	5:00	6:17
12-Feb	Fri-Sat	Mishpatim - Mevorchim Adar (Sun-Mon) Shabbat Shekalim	5:24	5:25	5:10	6:24
19-Feb	Fri-Sat	Terumah	5:32	5:30	5:15	6:31
25-Feb	Thu	Fast of Esther (fast begins 5:35am, ends 6:37pm)	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
26-Feb	Fri-Sat	Tetzaveh (Shabbat Zachor) (Purim / Megilah @ Maativ)	5:40	5:40	5:25	6:39
28-Feb	Sun	Purim (Shacharit—8AM at Ring House)	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	4:00	XXXXXX
5-March	Fri-Sat	Ki Tissa	5:47	5:45	5:30	6:46

Shabbat at Ezras Israel: Call 240-627-1661 for Eruv status.  
 Shacharit 9:00 a.m. Mincha/Maativ See above. Followed by Seudah Shlishit and Maativ  
 Sunday - Friday Shacharit at Ring House, Activity Room 3:  
 Sunday 8:30 a.m. Followed by Rabbi's shir (men only)  
 Monday, Thursday 8:05 a.m. (Also the time on Rosh Chodesh & other weekdays with Torah readings)  
 Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8:15 a.m.  
 4:30 in December/ only followed by maativ  
 Mincha minyan—same location—4:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday

# Kol Ezras Israel

**Congregation Ezras Israel  
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