



KOL EZRAS ISRAEL



Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Eliahu Kitov, in his Sefer Hatodoah, explains why we distribute Maos Chittin, funds for the needy, before Pesach.

The reason for this custom is that we have a mitzvah to feel “chairus”, freedom. During the chag of Pesach, and how can one feel true chairus if he knows that there are those who live near him who do not have enough for Pesach? The only way that we can properly enjoy what we have is if everyone around us also has enough for the Chag. When those around us do not have enough, we truly cannot enjoy what we have. Our feeling of freedom is

only complete when we know that everyone else also has what they need. Otherwise, we are shackled by our concern for others, and we can not properly fulfill this mitzvah of feeling Chairus.

The custom is reflective of the deep sense of brotherhood that all Jews share. We care for our brothers and sisters who do not have, that we truly are not free unless they too have. The Chessed of Maos Chittin is unique for it conveys the connection that we are expected to feel for each other.

“Mi keamcha Yisroel”!

Rabbi Eliezer Kreiser

Biography of Beril Sinnreich—Part I

By Sheldon Needle and Uri Fastovsky

Beril Sinnreich is a cherished member of our community. Now in his mid 90's, Reb Beril is a Holocaust survivor who spent several years in a German slave labor camp in Russia during the war. This brief article describes his youth before the war and some of his key recollections of a world that no longer exists.

Beril Sinnreich was born in 1913 in Bukovena, Romania. He lived in the village of Zamastia, located in the Carpathian mountains, where 30 Jewish families lived along with 200 gentile families. Life revolved around the farm owned by his father, who employed gentile families that worked the fields. They grew grain, corn, etc. The workers received one third of the revenue, while two thirds went to the owner. There was a lot of land along with a variety of livestock including chickens, cows, geese and horses.

Beril starting working at 6 a.m. each day, and spent most of his time feeding and working with animals and clearing fields. He worked from sunrise to dark and frequently had to get up at night to tend to the animals.

His family included his mother who cooked, sewed patches on the clothes and shoes. He also had five brothers and one sister, and all worked on

the farm.

They belonged to the Vizhnitzer Hassidic clan which was 20 miles away. They had a beautiful brick shul. In bad weather or on a *yahrzeit* they would have services at home. The Vizhnitzer Rebbe was very famous for his *brochos*. On Chanukah, people came from all over Romania to get his blessings.

Beril recalls some of the stories that had to do with the Vizhnitzer Rebbe. One story relates to his grandfather, who owned a lot of land when he died. The legal claim was not so clear, so a cousin tried to claim ownership and she hired a top lawyer to help her. Beril's uncles went to the Vizhnitzer Rebbe about the issue. He said *gamar tov*; do not worry, everything would be alright. When the case was being held in court, the big lawyer hired by his cousin collapsed in the courtroom, and the rightful owners won the case.

On another occasion, two shopkeepers were arguing over customers. The second man was trying to take away customers from the first man in an unfair way. The good man went to the Rebbe to complain. The Rebbe asked him to tell the other man to come to see him and he would help settle the problem. Upon telling this to the other man, the other man said, “I would listen to the Vizhnitzer



Rebbe the same as I would listen to a cat.” The first man told the Rebbe what the other man said, whereupon the Rebbe said “he should think like a cat.” The man soon lost his mind and started to scream and never recovered his sanity.

Other things that Beril remembers are about school. He went to a regular school, and cheder in the afternoon until 6th grade. School was one mile away, almost straight up hill. Also, he recalls that a

Schochet came to town once a week and slaughtered chickens, lamb, geese, and calves so they always had fresh meat. Nothing was ever preserved. They had no plumbing and no electricity. The only time they bathed was before a holiday, when they would heat water in an outside tub and wash in it.

Stay tuned for a follow-up story about Reb Beril’s life in the next newsletter.

Shul News

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 (see box below for contact information) Siddur Travel Edition. Please contact Rachmil Jacobovits

Refuah Shlemah

To Elsie Trombka as she recovers from a car accident

To Rabbi Lewis Weintraub



President’s Message

During my four years at Ezras Israel, I have come to shul through 100-degree heat and, precariously, over thin layers of ice. But until now, I have not had to contend with mounds of snow.

With our first Shabbos snow, in December, the issue was not so much getting to shul as getting back from shul. I had lunch that Shabbos at the Kreiser home, and as I left, all the Kreiser children (except the baby, who was sleeping) came out to watch as I tried to plow my way through several inches of snow that had not been there two hours earlier. For our second Shabbos snow, in February, I planned ahead and stayed overnight near the shul, which was fortunate, because there was probably a foot of snow on the ground by Shabbos morning. For the next two weeks after that, getting to shul was a challenge, with many of us forced to walk in the street because all the snow cleared from the streets had been piled up on the sidewalks.

On behalf of the congregation, I want to thank all of those who manage to get to shul those days, on Friday night, Saturday morning, and then Saturday afternoon for Mincha and Maariv. It was close, but we managed to get a minyan for just about every service.

Many people eventually got tired of all that snow. I saw a picture of a sign outside a house of worship of a different faith reading, “Whoever is praying for snow ... please stop!”

Despite the weather, we did have the opportunity to host an informative and interesting three-part class by Rabbi Akiva Leiman, a history teacher at the Yeshiva of Greater Washington, on the Rambam. At the first class, an introduction to the Rambam, we were shown, among other things,

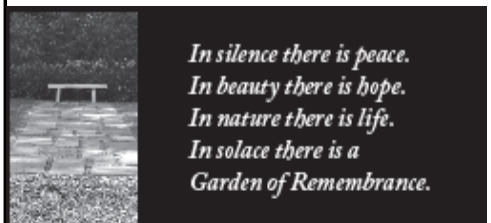
Rabbi Leiman’s collection of the Rambam on postage stamps, covering a much wider variety of countries than one might have expected. The second class focused on the Rambam’s philosophy, and the third on the controversies surrounding his writings. We hope to have additional classes this spring from Rabbi Leiman on other figures and topics from medieval Jewish history.

We sadly note the passing of Mr. Louis Taub z”l this past January, following a heart attack a few weeks earlier. We had just celebrated his 90th birthday this past May. Rabbi Kreiser has described him on several occasions as a “soldier for Hashem,” and that aptly captures the fact that Mr. Taub was dependably always one of the first to arrive for morning minyan, both on weekdays and on Shabbos. He also frequently led services, and many of you remarked to me how much you enjoyed his davening. What made his davening unique, in my view, was that it was very “authentic” – both his pronunciation, which was genuine southern Eastern European (of a type we do not often hear anymore), and his articulation, which gave meaning and feeling to the words of the prayers. We miss his presence and mourn his loss.

With Pesach coming up, those of you who are members should shortly be getting your ballots for the annual officer and board election and for next year’s membership dues. (If you are not a member, we encourage you to join in support of our congregation and the services it provides to our community.) And then, in the summer, we hope to announce an event to celebrate our new Sefer Torah, donated by the Hirsch family.

I look forward to writing to you again as the summer approaches.

Michael Richman



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 for more information.



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)

Yasher Koach

Chanuka Dinner coordination, set-up and cleanup—Sheldon Needle, Judy Lowitz, Charlene Disler

New newsletter editor—Uri Fastovsky

To Elaine and Bob Jaye for sponsoring the shul's morning minyan at the Ring House 10th Anniversary Breakfast - in loving memory of Elaine's mother Florence Feigenbaum / Tzipora bas Avraham in honor of her first Yahrzeit, 23 Adar, 5770

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>

Condolences



To Malka Kutnick and family on the passing of her father, and beloved shul member, Mr. Louis Taub - Usher Lemel ben Yisroel

Mazel Tov



Shirley Ben Ami and the entire family on David's HS graduation from the Jewish Day School

To Greta Hirsh and family for becoming a grandmother for the second time

To Manny Zymelman on his 80th Birthday - "*Biz 120 mit Gezund and Gitte, Gitte Psiros*"

To Ron and Tamar Unger and family on the engagement of their daughter Ayelet

For sponsoring a Kiddush

In memory of Emanuel Kieval / Mordechai ben Yehoshua z"l

Issi Barbash & family, to say farewell to the community on their upcoming move to Kemp Mill

Rose Glasner, on the upcoming marriage of her grandson Ariel Glasner to Aliza Yudkoff

Jerry Roschwalb in memory of his father, Samuel Roschwalb / Shmuel Zanvil ben Yaakov z"l

Shirley Ben Ami in memory of her mother, Dora Feldgreber / Devora bat Yitzchak z"l, on her first Yahrzeit

Mr. Louis Taub in memory of his wife, Liba Zelda bat Shraga Feivel z"l

Ilene & Ricky Van Houter and June & Stu Graff, in honor of Cantor Robert & Gayna Kieval, for all their service to the Rockville Jewish community over the past 32 years and to wish them well in their future endeavors in New York

Druckman family (Nate, Hilary, Mike and Andrea), in honor of Agi & Rachmil Jacobovits

Nancy & Manny Zymelman, in honor of the birthdays of their grandchildren Talia (10) and Yossi (8) in January

Shirley Ben Ami and Donald Feldgreber, in memory of their father Harry Feldgreber / Zvi Yehuda ben Dan z"l on his Yahrzeit

Farewell to

Cantor Robert and Gayna Kieval on their move back to New York

Gift Shop by Mordechai Yahoodain
301.881.0647

Support Israel—buy Israeli products
Skin care, jewelry, Judaica, and more.
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 or reserve online at
www.ezrasisrael.org

Date	Day	Parsha - Chag - Event				
27-Mar	Fri-Sat	Tzav-HaGadol	7:08	7:00	6:50	8:07
28-Mar	Mon	Erev Pesach	7:11	7:10	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
29-Mar	Tues	Pesach I - Do not begin food preparation before 8:10	8:10	XXXXXX	7:15	XXXXXX
30-Mar	Wed	Pesach II	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	7:15	8:11
3-Apr	Fri-Sat	Shabbat Chol HaMoed Pesach	7:15	7:00	7:00	8:15
4-Apr	Sun	Erev Yom Tov	7:17	7:15	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
5-Apr	Mon	Pesach VII - Do not begin food preparation before 8:16	8:16	7:20	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
6-Apr	Tues	Pesach VIII - Yizkor	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	7:20	8:17
10-Apr	Fri-Sat	Shemini - Mevorchim Iyar (Wed-Thu)	7:22	7:00	7:10	8:22
11-Apr	Sun	Yom Hashoah	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
17-Apr	Fri-Sat	Tazria-Metzora	7:29	7:00	7:15	8:29
19-Apr	Mon	Yom HaAtzma'ut	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
24-Apr	Fri-Sat	Acharai Mot-Kedoshim	7:35	7:00	7:20	8:37
1-May	Fri-Sat	Emor	7:42	7:00	7:30	8:45
2-May	Sun	Lag B'Omer	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
8-May	Fri-Sat	Behar-Bechukotai - Mevorchim Sivan (Fri)	7:49	7:00	7:35	8:52
15-May	Fri-Sat	Bamidbar	7:56	7:00	7:40	9:00
18-May	Tues	Erev Shavuot	7:59	8:00	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
19-May	Wed	Shavuot I - Do not begin food preparation before 9:04	9:04	XXXXXX	8:00	XXXXXX
20-May	Thu	Shavuot II - Yizkor	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	8:00	9:05
22-May	Fri-Sat	Nasso	8:02	7:00	7:45	9:07
28-May	Fri-Sat	Beha'aloicha	8:07	7:00	7:55	9:13

* Candlelighting times are the absolute latest. In absence of an emergency, ideally Shabbos should be accepted with the kehilla, around 7:20pm during the summer.

KOI EZRAS ISRAEL

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

Shabbat at Ezras Israel: Call 240-627-1661 for Eruv status.
Shacharit 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday - Friday Shacharit at King House, Activity Room 3:
 8:30 a.m. Followed by Rabbi's shiur (men only)
 Monday, Thursday 8:05 a.m. (Also on Rosh Chodesh & other weekdays with Torah readings)
 Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8:15 a.m.
 See above. Followed by Seudah Shlishit and Maariv
Mincha / Maariv minyan—same location—Sunday through Thursday
 (generally on the nearest quarter hour to the previous Shabbat candlelighting time)