



Flushing-Fresh Meadows Jewish Center
 193-10 Peck Avenue ☆ Flushing, New York 11365 (718) 357-5100

THE BULLETIN

July-Aug. 2013
 Vol.8, No.4

Sivan/ Av 5773
 Rabbi Gerald M. Solomon
 Cantor Aaron Katz

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR JULY

Friday, July 5

Mincha/Maariv.....6:30P.M.
 Candle Lighting Time.....8:12P.M.

Saturday, July 6 - Parashiot Matot-Mas'ei

Shabbat Mevarchim Services.....9:00A.M.
 Shabbat Ends.....9:20P.M.

Friday, July 12

Mincha/Maariv.....6:30P.M.
 Candle Lighting Time.....8:09P.M.

Saturday, July 13 Parashat D'varim

Shabbat Chazon Services.....9:00A.M.
 Shabbat Ends.....9:17P.M.

TISHAH B'AV

Monday, July 15

Mincha/Maariv/Eichah Lamentations).....8:00P.M.

Tuesday, July 16.

Shacharit/Kinot.....T.B.A.
 Minchah/Maariv.....T.B.A.
 Fast Day Ends.....9:16P.M.

Friday, July 19

Mincha/Maariv -6:30P.M.
 Candle Lighting Time.....8:05P.M.

Saturday, July 20 - Parashat Va-etchanan

Shabbat Nachamu Services.....9:00A.M.
 Shabbat Ends.....9:13P.M.

Friday, July 26 - Mincha/

Maariv.....6:30P.M.

Candle Lighting Time.....8:00P.M.

Saturday, July 27 - Parashat Eikev

Shabbat Services.....9:00A.M.
 Shabbat Ends.....9:07P.M.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR AUGUST

Friday, August 2

Mincha/Maariv.....6:30P.M.
 Candle Lighting Time.....7:53P.M.

Saturday, August 3 - Parashat R'ei

Shabbat Mevarchim Services.....9:00A.M.
 Shabbat Ends.....9:00P.M.

Friday, August 9

Mincha/Maariv.....6:30P.M.
 Candle Lighting Time.....7:44P.M.

Saturday, August 10

Parashat Shoftim
 Shabbat Services.....9:00A.M.
 Shabbat Ends.....8:51 P.M.

Friday, August 16

Mincha/Maariv.....6:30P.M.
 Candle Lighting Time.....7:35P.M.

Saturday, August 17 - Parashat Ki Teitze

Shabbat Services.....9:00A.M.
 Shabbat Ends.....8:42P.M.

Friday, August 23

Mincha/Maariv.....6:30P.M.
 Candle Lighting Time.....7:25P.M.

Saturday, August 24 - Parashat Ki Tavo

Shabbat Services.....9:00A.M.
 Shabbat Ends.....8:32P.M.

Friday, August 30

Mincha/Maariv.....6:30P.M.
 Candle Lighting Time.....7:14P.M.

Saturday, August 31 - Parashiot Nitzavim/Vayelech

Shabbat Services.....9:00A.M.
 Shabbat Ends.....8:21P.M.

SELICHOT..... Collation 8:45P.M.

Program 9:00 P.M.

Services 10:00P.M.

Save the date!!!!

On October 6, 2013 at a gala Luncheon, we are going to honor two individuals who have worked long and hard to make sure that FFMJC has flourished and will continue to flourish in the years to come.

Anita Bernstien was President of FMJC from 1982 to 1984 and from 1993 until 2003 and Co-President of FFMJC from 2003 until the present.

Byron Dresner was President and Co-President of Flushing JC from 1971 until 2003 and Co-President of FFMJC from 2003 until the present.

We will also celebrate another milestone...the 10th anniversary of the merger of Flushing Jewish Center and Fresh Meadows Jewish Center.

So plan to join us at this joyous celebration.

MAZEL TOV

Anita Bernstien on the graduations from college of her grandson Jacob Weinreb and granddaughter Maggie Weinreb.

Joan and Zach Levine on the graduation of their grandson Sammy from High School. He will be attending Buffalo University.

Flora Margolin on the graduation of her grandson Jacob from Vanderbilt University.

CONDOLENCES

David Nagan on the passing of his dear sister in Israel.

The family of our dear member **Jerry Richman**.

Stanley and Iris Rabinowitz on the passing of their beloved son Lawrence.

Diane Troy on the passing of her beloved son Mark.

Naomi Berlot on the passing of her beloved son.

May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Yerushalayim.



SISTERHOOD

An organization can only operate with the help of its' members. We are so lucky that we have a well functioning Board and we appreciate all that each individual does to keep us going, summer and winter. Thank you to **Anita Bernstein**, who in addition to all her other responsibilities in the functioning of FFMJC, prepares the Sisterhood Calendar that records the birthdays, anniversaries and yahrzeits of our members; to **Joan Corn**, our Treasurer, who keeps all the money records; to **Irene Dresner** for taking the minutes; to **Susan Gastman** for shopping for and preparing all the monthly luncheons; to **Bette Glasser** for her many hats, as Book Club leader, chair of the Hanukkah and Purim luncheons and for taking over the job of Treasurer during the winter months; to **Joan Kase-Riger** for all her help in taking minutes and going weekly to Creedmore on Friday mornings to prepare the Shabbat Service for the patients; to **Jackie Kimmelstiel** as Corresponding Secretary who sends out the Board meeting notices; to **Judy Levy** for her work for the Book Club; to **Inge Lewkowitz**, **Rochelle Mendelow**, **Pearl Rosenthal**, **Anita Seelig**, **Joyce Warshowsky** and **Betty Feit** for all their input and assistance whenever needed; to **Sandra Schwadron** who is always there to do whatever job has to be done; to **Sylvia Udasin** who continually is able to recommend and engage an entertainer for our functions; to **Rosalie Weiner** for her work for Torah Fund and for helping to edit the Sisterhood Calendar; to **Shari Zuber** without whom we could not have any function. We welcome **Connie Hanan** to the Board who is helping to find new programs for the meetings.

Save these dates: July 18, Luncheon and Program: July 25, Book Club, "The Light Between Oceans": August 15, Welcome Back Luncheon at Annie Chan's: August 22, Book Club "Destiny of the Republic".

We Thank you all!!

Marilyn Brown and Joan Levine; Co-Presidents.

ENDOWMENTS

Yahrzeit Plaque

In main Sanctuary...\$275

In Lasky Chapel.....\$175

Panel in new stained glass window..\$500

Endow a Siddur.....\$50

Endow a Chumash.....\$75

Sponsor a kiddush.....\$225

Special kiddush.....ask

Listing in Book of Life.....\$25

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund....

Please contact office (718)357-5100



RABBI'S MESSAGE

Summer Torah

The text of Torah which so very much appeals to our people for learning ethics and thereby for developing spiritually is the tractate Pirkei Avot or Ethics of our Fathers. It is a basic, intermediate and advanced guide on how to be a *mentsh*. This wonderful source of spiritual guidance is traditionally studied on the Sabbaths between Passover and Rosh Hashanah. It is our summer Talmudic treasure trove loved by so many for its simple, direct teachings which can be understood on varied levels of mastery and at varied levels of maturity.

A Mishna in Pirkei Avos (Ethics of the Fathers) states, **"A person who has the three characteristics: *Ayin Tovah* (Good Eye), *Ruach Nemucha* (Humble Spirit), and *Nefesh Shefelah* (Minimal physical needs) is considered to be a student of Avraham Avinu."** If a person has *Ayin Tovah*, he is truly happy when he sees his fellow human being experience good fortune. A person who has *Ruach Nemucha* is humble and not self-absorbed. A person who has *Nefesh Shefelah* is satisfied with even the most minimal physical requirements. If one has these three characteristics, then he is considered a disciple of Abraham.

A good eye is one whose owner sees the good in everything and in everybody, as opposed to the opposite, which is the plight of so many. Who do you know who sees the negative aspects in others, and takes the negative stance on any and every issue? Perception is what life is to us individually. While everyone sees things differently, we are taught here not **what** to see but **how** to see what we do see, a great challenge for so many who have not yet attuned their eyes into seeing the good, the favorable and the positive. They still see everything as bad, consequential, even hopeless.

This undoubtedly explains why there are those who live in deplorable conditions and yet go rejoicing through life and there are those who live in regal splendor, and are miserable. Perception is key. "Who is rich? He who is happy with his portion." is another vitally important lesson from Perek. If what you have makes you happy, you are rich. If you are never happy with what you have, it won't matter what or how much you have, you will never be rich because you will never be happy.

Our tradition bids us to live each day with joy and thanksgiving in our hearts despite the occasional slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. How many go through life bemoaning their own mortality seeing the balance of their days as merely a slow, steady, but sure descent into the grave? Death is to be thought of as an entrance to a better life, the true life, the blessed, peaceful, heavenly life.

The Mishna continues, **"A person who has the three characteristics of *Ayin Ra* (Evil Eye), *Ruach Gevoha* (Inflated Spirit), and *Nefesh Rechava* (Insatiable Desire) is considered to be a student of Bilaam the evil one."** If a person is pained by another's good fortune and he is arrogant, haughty, and brazen and has an insatiable appetite for materialism, he is considered a disciple of Bilaam. For example, the Torah states that Bilaam said to Balak, **"Even if you give me a house filled with gold and silver it would not be enough..."** Although Bilaam was a commoner, he believed that he should have had the wealth of a king, as we learned just a few weeks ago.

Yes, ego can cause one to be oblivious to the realities of life. A person who is self-absorbed can be exposed to all the wonders in the world and still remain totally unaffected. A doctor once told a story about a heart patient of his who was advised not to travel to a location more than half an hour from a hospital. Despite the concern of the doctor, the patient insisted on going on a cruise that would take him far from any medical facility. He told the doctor, "I want to go on this cruise and I take full responsibility if I die on the ship!" How is it possible for a person to behave so irresponsibly and risk losing his life? How could a cruise that lasts only a few days have greater value than living more years? If the "I" and the "Me" are all important, then nothing matters at that moment other than satisfying one's own needs. All too many of our decisions in life are based on the need for more immediate gratification than on what is in our own true, long term best interests.

Here are some concise additional samples from Ethics of our Fathers for your summer learning pleasure.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

* "Who is wise? He who learns from every man. Who is strong? He who controls his passions"

* "Say little and do much."

* "It is not your responsibility to finish the work [of perfecting the world], but you are not free to desist from it either"

* "Don't judge your fellow man until you are in his place . . . and don't say I will study when I have time, lest you never find the time"

* "Pray for the welfare of the government, for without fear of governmental authorities people would swallow each other alive."

* "A person who is [too] shy [to ask questions] will never learn, and a teacher who is too strict cannot teach . . . and in a place where there are no men, strive to be a man"

* "Do not separate from the community, do not trust yourself till the day you die, do not judge your fellow until you reach his place, do not make a statement which cannot be understood which will [only] later be understood, and do not say when I have free time I will learn, lest you not have free time."

* "Which is the right path for man to choose for himself? Whatever is harmonious for the one who does it, and harmonious for mankind."

* "Be as careful with a minor mitzvah as with a major one, for you do not know the rewards of the mitzvot."

* "Contemplate three things, and you will not come to the hands of transgression: Know what is above from you: a seeing eye, a listening ear, and all your deeds are inscribed in a book."

* "The world stands on three things: Torah, the service of G-d, and deeds of kindness."

With love and all good wishes for a joyous and spiritually meaningful summer -

Rabbi Gerald M. Solomon



TISHA B'AV

The ninth of Av is the saddest day in the Jewish calendar. The rabbis held that it was preordained to be a day of tragedy for the Jewish people. According to the Talmud, G-d marked the ninth of Av as a day of calamity because of an incident, recounted in Numbers 13-14, which took place on that day during the period of the sojourn in the wilderness. The spies () sent to Canaan brought back a discouraging report, and the people, displaying ingratitude and a complete lack of faith in G-d's promises to them, tearfully bemoaned their lot. As a result, G-d declared: "You wept without cause; I will therefore make this an eternal day of mourning for you []." It was then decreed that on the ninth of Av the Temple would be destroyed and the children of Israel would go into exile.

The destruction of Jerusalem and the loss of the Jewish state are not the only sad events that have occurred on the ninth of Av. The Mishnah enumerates the following: On the ninth of Av it was decreed against our fathers that they should not enter the Land of Israel (Num. 14:29), the Temple was destroyed both the first and the second times, Bethar was captured, and Jerusalem was ploughed up.

It is a tragic coincidence that since the time of the Mishnah, many other calamitous events in Jewish history have occurred on the ninth of Av. On Tish'ah B'av in 1290, King Edward I signed the edict compelling his Jewish subjects to leave in England. The expulsion from Spain occurred on the same day in 1492. Tish'ah B'av also marked the outbreak of World War I, beginning a long period of suffering for the Jewish people. Not only did this period witness the pogroms and massacres perpetrated against the Jews of Russia, Poland, and other countries of Eastern Europe, but it was also the prelude to World War II and the savage destruction of six million Jews.

Since the reestablishment of the Jewish state, it has been maintained in some quarters that Tisha B'av and the other fasts connected with the destruction of Jerusalem have lost their meaning and should be discontinued. Some even claim that with the establishment of the Jewish state the prophecy of Zechariah has been realized, and therefore we should fulfill the second part of the prophecy, observing the fast days as festivals. (A sad precedent for this is Shabbetai Zvi's proclaiming Tish'ah B'av a festival of joy.)

The opponents of this view insist that the fasts must still be observed since the redemption of Israel is not yet complete. For many years they supported their arguments by pointing out that even the city of Jerusalem was not wholly in Jewish hands, while much of the

ancient land of Israel also remained under enemy domination.

Tisha B'av is subject to the same limitations as Yom Kippur: abstention not only from food but also from bathing, anointing oneself, wearing leather shoes, and conjugal relations (554:1). In addition, because of the joy it affords, the Sages forbade all study of sacred literature, with the exception of books that fit the mood of the day, such as the Book of Job, the parts of the Talmud and Midrash that tell of the destruction of Jerusalem, and parts of the Book of Jeremiah (554:1, 2).

The ninth of the Hebrew month of Av is a major fast day in the Jewish calendar, when the people lament the date of the destruction of both the First and Second Temples, with the subsequent loss of national sovereignty and exile from the Holy Land.

Tisha B'av is the culmination of a three week period of mourning, the last nine days of which are particularly intense, with observance of many customs similar to those practised after a bereavement in the close family. The "Three Weeks", as they are known, begin on the seventeenth of the month of Tammuz, the date on which the outer walls of the city of Jerusalem were breached during the siege. This is also the date on which Moses broke the first tablets of the Law when he came down from Mt. Sinai after 40 days - to find the people worshipping the Golden Calf.

The Ninth of Av is the date on which the Betar stronghold fell, the date of the Jewish expulsion from Spain in 1492, the beginning of Nazi deportations of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto.

The day is marked publicly in the State of Israel by the closure of restaurants, places of entertainment etc. from the previous evening, with food shops opening only for morning hours. The day is interpreted through its religious significance and/or its importance in connection with nationhood and national sovereignty - whether or not individuals choose to fast.

Traditional observance includes the reading of the Book of Lamentations, the Kinot, additional lamentations of more recent origin, a 25 hour fast, deprivation of comfort and physical contact. In Jerusalem, thousands of people stream towards the Kotel, the Western and only remaining Wall of the Second Temple to commemorate the destruction and pray for redemption.



JERUSALEM IN HISTORY

Abraham was sent to sacrifice his son, Isaac, on a hill in the land of "Moriah", the place known today as the Temple Mount. The binding and redemption of Isaac are inextricably linked with the holiness of this site.

The physical connection of the entire Jewish people to Jerusalem first comes to the fore, obviously, when King David conquered it from the Jebusites, paid for the holy site on the Temple Mount and made the city his capital.

After the destruction of the First Temple, the majority of the Jewish population was swept into exile in Babylon, by whose rivers they swore to weep for Zion, "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its cunning. May my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not place Jerusalem above all my joy."

In the Maccabean era, the very essence of the fight for Jerusalem was to establish the Jewish nature of the city and drive out pagan practices from Temple ritual and Hellenism from public life. Under other circumstances, there would have been no national uprising against Jewish subordination to the Greeks.

The importance of Jerusalem as a national symbol grew with subsequent periods of foreign domination: during the Great Rebellion and the Bar Kokhba Rebellion, coins were minted in memory of Jerusalem.

It is, however, only after the destruction of the Second Temple that the significance of Jerusalem is transformed into that which we know today - a focal point, around which Jewish life turns and towards which the entire Jewish people's national aspirations and messianic hopes are directed.

Thus, we find that not only is this a spiritual connection, but also a physical one: all synagogue interiors around the world are built facing Jerusalem. Indeed, the daily and festival prayers abound in references to Jerusalem in terms referring to the city and in lengthier text the liturgy contains five major blessings relating to Jerusalem, while many other community and home rituals also describe and commemorate the Holy City.

Jerusalem is the major topic of pre-modern Hebrew poetry, and the Kinot - the medieval and subsequent mourning liturgy of Tisha B'av - focus time and again on Jerusalem as they lament the trials of the Jewish people throughout its history of exile.

As the inevitable cycle of life continues and repeats, traditions connected with Jerusalem have been enshrined to remind us that even joy is not complete without Jerusalem: a plate is broken at the signing of an engagement contract; a groom breaks a glass under the bridal canopy after the ceremony; one small section of

the wall in every new house is left un-plastered or unpainted - incomplete.

For generations, it was impossible for most Jews to dream of living in Jerusalem themselves, but they participated by supporting those communities which resided there, hosting guests who had traveled from Jerusalem to raise funds. This was more than a form of charity: it brought Jerusalem to everyone and everyone to Jerusalem - a way of life.

Diaspora Jewish life would be incomplete without Jerusalem: the hope for redemption and for the return of the people to Eretz Yisrael has always focused on Jerusalem. It is a longing and a hope which are most poignantly felt and expressed on Tisha B'av.

Special Tisha B'Av Services will be held in our synagogue on Monday Evening, July 15th at 8:00P.M. during which the Book of Lamentations will be read. Tisha B'Av morning services in which additional lamentations are chanted will be announced.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Come and enjoy a Sunday morning breakfast and listen to two stimulating lectures.

On Sunday, July 21 at 9:45AM we will hear from the popular Bunie Veeder about King Saul's daughter Michal and the "rest of the story".

On Sunday, August 4 at 9:45 AM join us for a talk that should interest all of us on "ageing" by Sheldon Orenstien.

All this for only \$5 each

Shabbat Kiddush Fund

Those of you who attended the Membership Meeting on June 30, and read the Budget report, will note that the cost of each Kiddush Lunch is over \$250.

There are many who would like to sponsor a Kiddush but find the cost of \$225 a little too steep.

Therefore we would like to suggest an on-going fund to help defray some of the cost.

If you would like to contribute to this fund please send a check in any amount made out to FFMJC with a note "Kiddush fund".

All donations will be recognized in The Bulletin.

SYNAGOGUE BULLETIN BLOOPERS

These announcements, with hilarious typos and phrasing blunders, were reportedly found in various shul newsletters and bulletins around the country. Even the spell checker wouldn't have helped!

1. Don't let worry kill you. Let your synagogue help. Join us for our Oneg after services. Prayer and medication to follow. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our congregation.
2. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
3. We are pleased to announce the birth of David Weiss, the sin of Rabbi and Mrs. Abe Weiss.
4. Thursday at 9, there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club, All women wishing to become Little Mothers please see the rabbi in his private study.
5. The ladies of Hedassah have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the basement on Tuesdays.
6. A bean supper will be held Wednesday evening in the community center. Music will follow.
7. Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the JCC. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.
8. Rabbi is on vacation. Massages can be given to his secretary.
9. Goldblum will be entering the hospital this week for testes.
10. The Men's Club is warmly invited to the Oneg hosted by Hadassah. Refreshments will be served for a nominal feel.
11. Please join us as we show our support for Amy and Rob, who are preparing for the girth of their first child.
12. We are taking up a collection to defray the cost of the new carpet in the sanctuary. All those wishing to do something on the carpet will come forward and get a piece of paper.
13. If you enjoy sinning, the choir is looking for you!

Of course you will never find any of these in our Bulletin

FETING JERUSALEM

Forty-six years ago today [June 4] Israel embarked on a war against the combined armies of its Arab neighbors – Egypt, Syria and Jordan. In the months leading up to what would be later known as the Six Day War, Israel's leaders did everything in their power to avoid a military confrontation.

However, Nasser's decision to expel the United Nations Emergency Force and mass Egyptian troops in the Sinai; his closure of the Straits of Tiran; his instigation of Arab war pacts and public commitments by Arab heads of state to eradicate Zionism; and the Soviets' behind-the-scenes war-mongering all contributed to a bellicose atmosphere that forced Israel to act preemptively.

By the time the fighting was over, Israel was in possession of huge tracts of land – the Sinai Peninsula, the Golan Heights, Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Much of this newly acquired territory – particularly in the West Bank – was resonant with Jewish history. Relief at being saved from destruction at the hands of Arab soldiers, combined with the sudden and unplanned expansion into geographical sites right out of the Bible, sparked a heady exuberance that spread throughout the country.

However, nothing could compare to the excitement generated by the reunification of Jerusalem. For the first time since Jewish sovereignty came to a brutal end nearly two millennia earlier, the Jewish people gained control over their holiest city, and Jerusalem was once again reunited. Images of then-chief-of-staff Yitzhak Rabin, defense minister Moshe Dayan and Uzi Narkis, the commander of the forces that liberated Jerusalem, are iconic in Israel's short history, as are pictures of the shofar-blowing Rabbi Shlomo Goren at the Western Wall and on the Temple Mount.

In the days and weeks that followed Israel's miraculous victory, tens of thousands visited the Western Wall. The liberation of Jerusalem contrasted sharply with the 19 years of Jordanian rule, during which Jewish residents were driven out and Jewish places of worship were closed or destroyed. Even the various Christian denominations had operated with limited liberties under the strict control of Muslim authorities. And the excitement surrounding unifica-

tion, combined with the wariness at sharing control over the city, remains strong today.

That seemed to be the sentiment reflected in a survey commissioned by pollster Rafi Smith of Smith Consulting. Though a strong majority continues to support a two-state solution, most Israelis reject the idea of transforming Jerusalem into a shared capital for both Israelis and Palestinians. Of 500 respondents, just 15 percent said they were in favor of Jerusalem becoming the capital not only of Israel but of a future Palestinian state. In contrast, 74% of Israelis polled rejected sharing the capital.

The poll is yet another reminder of the yawning gaps separating Israelis and Palestinians. Not only are the sides split on the issue of the "right of return" for millions of Palestinian "refugees"; but also on the question of recognizing settlement blocs and communities such as Ma'aleh Adumim and Ariel; and on security arrangements.

Israelis and Palestinians are also seemingly irrevocably at odds when it comes to Jerusalem. This past weekend, during a meeting with Arab residents of Jerusalem in his office, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said that "without Jerusalem being the capital of the Palestinian state, there will be no political solution." Abbas added that "east Jerusalem is the essence of the State of Palestine. It is the hearts of all Palestinians and Arabs and Muslims."

As we mark the 46th anniversary of the outbreak of the Six Day War, it is fitting to be humbled by the tremendous challenges we face and the obstacles to peace that remain to be overcome. But we should also be proud of our tremendous achievements. Today, 46 years after reunification, Jerusalem is Israel's largest city with a population of over 800,000. Once referred to by writer Cynthia Ozick as a "phoenix city" with a "history of histories" where "no one is a stranger" – Jerusalem has never before in its long life flourished so astoundingly.

Never have so many Jews lived in Jerusalem in relative harmony and security alongside a diverse Jewish population. And never before have the religious rights of all been so carefully protected. Israelis are rightly wary of endangering all this.

ISRAELIS HAVE SO MANY REASONS TO BE HAPPY, MR. KERRY

Daniel Pipes, Jewish Press, June 6, 2013

... U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry recently complained that Israelis are too contented to end their conflict with the Palestinians: "People in Israel aren't waking up every day and wondering if tomorrow there will be peace because there is a sense of security and a sense of accomplishment and of prosperity."

While Mr. Kerry misunderstands Israelis (Palestinian rejectionism, not prosperity, caused them to give up on diplomacy), he is right that Israelis have a "sense of security and ... of prosperity." They are generally a happy lot. A recent poll found 93 percent of Jewish Israelis proud of be Israeli. Yes, Iranian nuclear weapons loom and confrontation with Moscow is possible, but things have never been so good. With thanks to Efraim Inbar of Bar-Ilan University for some of the following information, Let us count the ways:

- Women need to give birth to 2.1 children to sustain a country's population; Israel has a birthrate of 2.65, making it the only advanced country to exceed replacement. (The next highest is France at 2.08; the lowest is Singapore at 0.79.) While Haredis and Arabs account for some of this robust rate, secular Jews are the key.

- Israel enjoyed a 14.5 percent growth of gross domestic product during the 2008-12 recession, giving it the highest economic growth rate of any OECD country. (In contrast, the advanced economies as a whole had a 2.3 percent growth rate, with the United States weighing in at 2.9 percent and the Euro zone at minus 0.4 percent.) Israel invests 4.5 percent of GDP in research & development, the highest percentage of any country.

- Due to major gas and oil finds, Walter Russell Mead observes, "the Promised Land, from a natural resource point of view, could be ... inch for inch the most valuable and energy rich country anywhere in the world." These resources enhance Israel's position in the world.

- With Syria and Egypt consumed by internal problems, the existential threat they once posed to Israel has, for the moment, nearly disappeared. Thanks to innovative tactics, terror attacks have been nearly eliminated. The IDF has outstanding human resources and stands at the forefront of military technologies; and Israeli society has proven its readiness to fight a protracted conflict. Mr. Inbar, a strategist, concludes that "the power differential between Israel and its Arab neighbors is continuously growing."

- The Palestinian diplomatic focus that dominated the country's politics for decades after 1967 has receded, with only 10 percent of Jewish Israelis considering negotiations the top priority. Mr. Kerry may obsess over this issue but, in the acerbic words of one politico, "Debating the peace process to most Israelis is the equivalent of debating the color of the shirt you will wear when landing on Mars."

- Even the Iranian nuclear issue may be less dire than it appears. Between the vastly greater destructive power of Israel's nuclear arsenal and its growing missile defense system, military analyst Anthony Cordesman predicts that an exchange of nuclear weapons would leave Israel damaged badly but Iranian civilization destroyed. "Iranian recovery is not possible in the normal sense of the term." Maniacal as the Iranian leadership is, will it really risk all?

- Successes of the "boycott, divestment, and sanctions" movement are pretty meager (Stephen Hawking snubbed the president's invitation! A United Nations body passed another absurd condemnation). Israel has diplomatic relations with 156 out of the United Nations' 193 members. Looking at multiple indices, Mr. Inbar finds that, globally, "Israel is rather well integrated."

- In public opinion surveys in the United States, the world's most important country and Israel's main ally, Israel regularly beats the Palestinians by a 4-to-1 ratio. And while universities are indeed hostile, I ask hand wringers this question: Where would you rather be strong, the U.S. Congress or the campuses? To ask that question is to answer it.

- Ashkenazi-Sephardi tensions have diminished over time due to a combination of intermarriage and cultural cross-pollination. The issue of Haredi nonparticipation is finally being addressed.

- Israelis have made impressive cultural contributions, especially to classical music, leading one critic, David Goldman, to call Israel a "pocket superpower in the arts."

Listen up, anti-Zionists and anti-Semites, Palestinians and Islamists, extreme right- and left-wingers: You are fighting a losing battle; the Jewish state is prevailing. As Mr. Inbar rightly concludes, "Time seems to be on Israel's side." Give up and find some other country to torment.

Sisterhood
"The Simcha Cake Project"

The following Simchas were announced at the May 23, 2013 meeting





| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Rosalie Weiner | Good health to all |
| Bette Glasser | Mazel Tov to granddaughter Dina Newman on her graduation from George Washington University and acceptance at the Jewish Theological Seminary for a Masters Degree |
| Anita Bernstein | Mazel Tov to my grandchildren Jacob and Maggie Weinreb on their College graduations |
| Marilyn Brown | Good health to all |
| Betty Feit | Congratulations to Russel Feit on passing the Bar |
| Sylvia Udasin | In honor of my granddaughter's wedding in Israel in October |
| Judy Levy | In honor of Emily and Mark's wedding anniversary in May |
| Susan Gastman | Wishing everyone a good summer |
| Joyce Warshowsky | Mazel Tov Joyce and Lou Warshowsky on their 50 th anniversary |
| Joan Corn | Best wishes and good health to all my friends |
| Sandy Godnick | In honor of my grandson's college graduation |
| Ellen Zilka | Congratulations to my twin grandsons and granddaughter on their graduations |
| Lucy Gutman | Congratulations to my grandson on his graduation from medical school and another grandson and his wife both graduating from dental school |
| Elaine Rubin | On grandson's graduation from middle school |
| Luisa Cvern | Happy birthday to Brooke and Devon, my twin great-granddaughters |
| Florence Cvern | A good and healthy summer to all |
| Gloria Goldsmith | Happy and healthy summer to all |
| Edith Dressler | In honor of Memorial Day-Pray for peace on earth |
| Eve Hauser | For my granddaughter's engagement |
| Ruth Lasky | Good health to my family |
| Florence Gross | No more problems for my daughter |
| Joan Levine | In honor of my great-grandchildren |
| Rita Kurz | In honor of my grandchildren |
| Eva&Walter Beckhardt | For engagement of Doni and Tara |
| Ida Goldin | In honor of my children |
| Leona Goodman | Mazel Tov to grandson Michael on engagement to Jesse |
| Kate Newman | In honor of my two sons David and Barry's birthdays |

The following Simchas were announced at the June 20, 2013 Meeting

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Rosalie Weiner | In honor of my great-niece's swim around the Florida Keys |
| Bette Glasser | Congratulations to my granddaughter Samantha on her engagement |
| Marilyn Brown | Thank you to Rosalie Weiner for her work for Torah Fund |
| Joyce Warshowsky | A healthy, happy summer to all |
| Sylvia Udasin | In honor of grandson Howard's wedding |
| Anita Bernstein | Mazel Tov to my two grandchildren Maggie and Jacob Weinreb on their college graduations |
| Joan Levine | Happy July Birthday to Zach |
| Sara Kintzer | Get well to my Aunt Bertha |
| Joan Corn | In honor of my granddaughter Allison being selected for Math Honors |
| Sandra Schwadron | Happy and healthy summer to all |
| Susan Gastman | Happy, healthy summer to all |
| Lucy Gutman | In honor of my grandson's marriage |
| Rita Kurz | In honor of my great-grandchildren |
| Helen Daniels | Happy, healthy summer to all |
| Pearl Rosenthal | Good health to my husband and to the entire Sisterhood |
| Luisa Cvern | Good health to Carl Rosenthal |
| Flo Cvern | Good Health to Carl Rosenthal |
| Roslyn Sternlieb | In honor of my grandchildren Gabrielle and Jordan Sternlieb |
| Andrea Arizzary | In honor of my grandchildren |
| Elaine Guthrie | In honor of my grandchildren |
| Connie Hanan | In honor of selling my apartment soon |
| Bea Kahn | Be Happy |
| Terry Lubin | Mazel Tov to Atara and Jonah on their graduations |
| Meryl Roschwald | Mazel Tov to my father Nathan Abbe on his 91 st birthday |






JULY, 2013

TAMUZ/AV, 5773

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | 1 | 2 Senior Fitness 11:00 AM | 3 | 4 | 5  8:12 | 6 ²⁸ Tamiz Matos/Masei Ends 9:20 |
| 7 | 8 Rosh Chodesh | 9 Senior Fitness 11:00 AM | 10 | 11 | 12  8:09 | 13 ⁸ Av Devarim Ends 9:17 |
| 14 | 15 Erev Tisha B'Av | 16 Tisha B'av Ends 9:16 | 17 Program Committee 8:00 PM | 18 Sisterhood Luncheon 12 Noon | 19  8:05 | 20 ¹⁵ Av Va'eschanan Ends 9:13 |
| 21 Breakfast Club 9:45 AM with Bunie Veeder | 22 | 23 Senior Fitness 11:00 AM | 24 | 25 Book Club 10:00 AM "The Light Between the Oceans" | 26  7:59 | 27 ²² Av Eikev Ends 9:07 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 Senior Fitness 11:00 AM | 31 | | | |

AUGUST, 2013

AV/ELUL, 5773

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|---|--|---|--|---|
| | | Every Tuesday 11:00—Noon Low-Impact Chair Exercise With Certified Fitness Educator | | 1 | 2 | 3 ²⁷ Av |
| | | | | |  7:52 | Re'eh Ends 9:00 |
| 4 Breakfast Club 9:45 Sheldon Orenstien "Aging" | 5 | 6 ³⁰ Av Rosh Chodesh | 7 ¹ Elul Rosh Chodesh Rabbi's Class "History of Israel" 10:30-Noon | 8 | 9  7:44 | 10 ⁴ Elul Shoftim Ends 8:51 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Rabbi's Class "History of Israel" 10:30-Noon | 15 Welcome Back Luncheon At Annie Chan's | 16  7:35 | 17 ¹¹ Elul Ki Seitsei Ends 8:42 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Rabbi's Class "History of Israel" 10:30-Noon | 22 Book Club 10:00 AM "Destiny of The Republic" | 23  7:25 | 24 ¹⁸ Elul Ki Savo Ends 8:32 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Rabbi's Class "History of Israel" 10:30-Noon | 29 | 30  7:14 | 31 ²⁵ Elul Nitzavim/ VaYeilach Ends 8:21 Selichot Service 8:45 PM |