



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

**THE BULLETIN**

March-April 2019  
 Vol.17, No.4

Adarr I/Adar II 5779  
 Rabbi Gerald M. Solomon  
 Cantor Aaron Katz



**Coming Events**

**HAPPY PURIM**

**Wednesday, March 20, 2019**  
 Maariv and Megillah Reading at 7:15pm.  
 After services, coffee, hammentashen and snacks will be served.  
**Thursday, March 21, 2019**  
 Shacharit Service & Megillah Reading at 8:30AM followed by a light breakfast.

**HAPPY PASSOVER**

**Saturday, April 20, 1st day of Passover**  
 After services, a Passover breakfast will be served.  
**Sunday, April 21, 2nd day of Passover**  
 After services coffee & cake will be served.  
**Friday, April 26, 7th day of Passover**  
 After services coffee & cake will be served.  
**Saturday, April 27, 8th day of Passover**  
 After services, a Passover breakfast will be served.

**Thursday, March 28, 2019**  
 The Book Club will discuss the book "Beneath A Scarlet Sky" by Mark Sullivan at 10:30AM.

**Thursday, April 25, 2019**  
 The Book Club will discuss the book "Gateway to the Moon" by Mary Morris.

Our annual Community Yom Hashoah Service will be held on  
**Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 7:00PM**  
 This year it will be hosted by Flushing-Fresh Meadows Jewish Center.  
**WATCH FOR THE FLYER**

**Thursday, May 9, 2019**  
 Come join us to celebrate Israel's 71st Independence Day. Buffet Luncheon will be served.  
**WATCH FOR THE FLYER**

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR MARCH AND APRIL, 2019

**Friday, March 1**  
 Mincha/Maariv.....5:15PM  
 Candle Lighting Time.....5:28PM  
**Saturday, March 2**  
 Parashiot Vayakhel/Shekalim  
 Shabbat Mevarchim Services.....9:00AM  
 Shabbat Ends.....6:37PM

**Friday, March 8**  
 Mincha/Maariv-2nd Day Rosh Chodesh Adar II.....5:30PM  
 Candle Lighting Time.....5:36PM  
**Saturday, March 9**  
 Parashat Pikudei  
 Shabbat Services.....9:00AM  
 Shabbat Ends.....6:45PM

**Friday, March 15**  
 Mincha/Maariv.....6:30PM  
 Candle Lighting Time.....6:43PM  
**Saturday, March 16**  
 Parashiot Vayikra/Zachor  
 Shabbat Services.....9:00AM  
 Shabbat Ends.....7:52PM

### PURIM

**Wednesday, March 20**  
 Fast of Esther  
 Maariv and Megillah.....7:15PM  
**Thursday, March 21**  
 Shacharit and Megillah.....8:30AM

**Friday, March 22**  
 Mincha/Maariv-Shushan Purim.....6:45PM  
 Candle Lighting Time.....6:51PM  
**Saturday, March 23**  
 Parashat Tzav  
 Shabbat Services.....9:00AM  
 Shabbat Ends.....8:00PM

**Friday, March 29**  
 Mincha/Maariv.....6:45PM  
 Candle Lighting Time.....6:58PM  
**Saturday, March 30**  
 Parashiot Shemini/Parah  
 Shabbat Mevarchim Services.....9:00AM  
 Shabbat Ends.....8:07PM

**Friday, April 5**  
 Mincha/Maariv.....7:00PM  
 Candle Lighting Time.....7:06PM  
**Saturday, April 6**  
 Parashiot Tazria/Hachodesh  
 Shabbat Rosh Cfodesh Services.....9:00AM  
 Shabbat Ends.....8:15PM

**Friday, April 12**  
 Mincha/Maariv.....7:00PM  
 Candle Lighting Time.....7:13PM  
**Saturday, April 13**  
 Parashat M'tzarah  
 Shabbat Hagadol Services.....9:00AM  
 Shabbat Ends.....8:22PM

### PASSOVER

**Thursday, April 18**  
 Search for Chametz.....After 8:30PM

**Friday, April 19**  
 Erev Pesach  
 Fast of the First Born Services.....7:45AM  
 Latest Time for Eating Chametz..... until 10:16AM

Latest Time for Annuling Chametz.....11:35AM  
 Candle Lighting Time -  
 First Evening of Passover.....7:20PM  
 Mincha/Maariv.....T.B.A

**Saturday, April 20**  
 First Day of Passover Services.....9:00AM  
**Saturday, April 20**  
 Candle Lighting-Second Evening of Passover.....8:29PM  
 Mincha/ Maariv.....T.B.A.

**Sunday, April 21**  
 Second Day Passover Services.....9:00AM  
 Festival Ends.....8:30PM

**Thursday, April 25**  
 Mincha/Maariv  
 Seventh Evening Passover Services.....7:00PM  
 Candle Lighting Time.....7:26PM

**Friday, April 26**  
 Seventh Day Passover Services.....9:00AM  
**Friday, April 26**  
 Mincha/Maariv  
 Eighth Evening Passover Services.....7:00PM  
 Candle Lighting Time.....7:28PM

**Saturday, April 27**  
 Eighth Day Passover Services.....9:00AM  
 Yizkor.....10:45AM  
 Festival Ends.....8:37PM

### CELEBRATE PURIM

**Wednesday, March 20**  
 After the Megillah Reading, coffee, hammentashen and snacks will be served.

**Thursday, March 21**  
 After services, a light breakfast will be served, which will include bagels, lox and cream cheese sandwiches, as well as hammentashen,



# HERE'S THE NEWS

## Mazel Tov

To: Rochelle C. Mendelow who is thrilled to welcome her first great-grandchild, Austin Charlie Schnitzer (Doron Chaim). Austin is the son of Lindsay Shaw and Ari Schnitzer. and is the grandson of Shari and Howard Schnitzer. Shari became a Bat Mitzvah at FMJC and graduated from their Hebrew High School program.

## Thank You

To: Rabbi Solomon for sponsoring a Kiddush in honor of his parents Rabbi Ephraim and Sarah Solomon. After lunch, Rabbi gave a lecture on "Active Shooter Incidents.-The fear of our times. What we can do."

To: Gustav Hirschhorn for sponsoring a Kiddush in memory of his dear wife Clara on Saturday, February 16. We also extend our thanks to the Mandel and Hirschhorn Families.

To: Ezra and Mordecai Cohen for sponsoring a Kiddush in memory of their beloved mother Ramah Cohen on Saturday, February 23.

## Condolences

To: The family of Matilde Spector, widow of Isaac Spector and sister of Luisa Cvern. Both of the Spectors were long time members of Fresh Meadows Jewish Center.

To: Rabbi Gerald Solomon and family on the passing of his sister, Rachel Witty.

To: Susan Gelbart on the passing of her husband, a long time member of Fresh Meadows Jewish Center.

To: Robert Weisel and family on the passing of his mother Marilyn Weisel.

To: Arthur Isman on the passing of his brother Joseph.

**Tu B'Shevat**, the "new year of the trees" was celebrated on Saturday, January 19. Cantorial Masterpieces were performed with a Tu B'Shevat sing-along in the sanctuary.

After services, we blessed dry fruit and nuts for this occasion. Pasta, falafel and Mediterranean salad and many types of salads were served, as well as desert. It was truly an enjoyable afternoon.

## CENTER NEWS

We would like to inform you that on Sunday, February 24, 2019, at a meeting of the membership of the synagogue, the congregation voted not to retain the services of Rabbi Gerald Solomon after the expiration of his contract which ends on May 31, 2019.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



BEGINS

Daylight Savings Time Begins on  
Sunday, March 10, 2019

**WELCOME  
BACK  
SNOWBIRDS**

Don't forget to let the office know when you will be returning to New York so you will be assured of getting your mail here, not in Florida.



## Sisterhood News

### SISTERHOOD

Spring has arrived and with it the beginning of our Sisterhood functions. We look forward to having all of you join us. The book club will be meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM when we will be discussing the book "Beneath A Scarlet Sky" by Mark Sullivan. The books are reserved for our group at the Fresh Meadows library. All are welcome to attend the book club meetings, even if you have not read the book. The April book club meeting is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> when we will review the book "Gateway To The Moon" by Mary Morris.

Mark your calendar for the annual *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, Israel Independence Day celebration, on Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup>. Always good food and special entertainment. Watch for details and RSVP promptly.

See you soon!

Joan and Marilyn, Sisterhood Co-Presidents



**Rabbi's Class Mondays:  
March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, and 8.**

**GREAT JEWISH MINDS;  
THEIR LIVES AND WORKS  
PART II**

**10:30am to 12 noon**

Following the class there will be a light luncheon



**Rabbi's Class Wednesdays:  
March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, and 10.**

**GOD, THE JEWS AND HISTORY  
FIFTEENTH INSTALLMENT**

**10:30am to 12 noon**

Following the class there will be a light luncheon



## *Rabbi's Message*

### Shabbat Shekalim: A Prelude to Passover

Shabbat Shekalim or the Sabbath of the Shekel which we observed on March 2nd is the first of four special Sabbaths preceding Passover and serves as do the others in helping us to appropriately prepare our hearts and minds for the upcoming Z'man Cherutenu, the Festival of our Freedom.

Moses heard from G-d that every Jew should give half a shekel as a donation to the maintenance of the sanctuary and its sacrifices and as a means of taking the census. He couldn't understand fully the Almighty's meaning so he prayed for guidance. G-d reached under His throne and took out a shekel of fire and showed it to Moshe, "zeh yitnu". "This they shall give." (Yerushalmi Shekalim 1; 4).

Moshe had one big question. Why only a half? Shouldn't a Jew give something whole? Moses understood the profound implication. A Jew can not stand alone. Alone, he or she is only half a Jew! No matter how much an individual experiences spiritual growth, a Jew by himself/herself can never grow larger than a half. I am not referring here to the blessings of married life. A Jew to be complete must have other Jews to complete him/her. One cannot be a good Jew, a commandment fulfilling, law abiding Jew, if such a Jew is separated from other Jews. Unaffiliated Jews are indeed a sad and unfulfilled category of Jews. As long as they remain disconnected from their people, they remain spiritually deficient, sadly, never knowing what they are missing. They remain half Jewish even though they are halachically full Jews.

In recent decades, at certain junctures, it may have been considered chic to be a non conformist and not join a synagogue or any other avenue of Jewish affiliation. How many times have I heard people say that they don't believe in institutionalized religion, therefore they don't connect with the synagogue. I often wondered, what do they believe in? If they have something better than institutionalized religion, I'd like to know what it is?

What did this mean to Moses personally, this half shekel, half a person idea? Although no one cared about his fellow Jews more than Moses, Moses was a loner. When he lived in the palace of the Pharaoh in Egypt he was alone. When he ran out of Egypt he ran alone. As a shepherd in Midian he walked the fields all alone. When he stood at the burning bush he stood alone. He left his wife and children and went to Egypt - all alone. He stood at Mt. Sinai all alone, for 40 days and 40 nights. Moses did it all on his own. He was independent and had very little social interaction. But his life was intimately bound up with his people's lives, notwithstanding.

Moses, our greatest political and spiritual leader was the greatest altruist. Did he not say to G-d when G-d confronted Him with the threat of killing the Jewish people following the incident of the Golden Calf, if you kill them, erase my name from your book also? Moses, the lonely leader, "the lonely man of faith" was bound spiritually to his people. This spiritual bond which exists between Jews is in need of further exploration and analysis.

We need to integrate the idea that alone, we are but a fraction of what we could be, alone we are just half a shekel. Moses' life demonstrates that fulfillment comes to an individual when he/she experiences the spiritual bond which unites us to each other and thereby the basis is formed for our unification with G-d. Most of our people, I submit, require the physical coming together, the social coming together of the Jewish people, in order to acquire the basic human spiritual fulfillment. Moses didn't need to socialize with the people, he loved them unconditionally and was himself fulfilled by that love. But he was with them constantly. The unification He had with G-d came as a result of his direct encounters with G-d and his ongoing fulfillment of the will of G-d.

This is an important message for all of us especially as we enter the season of Passover. It sometimes seems so much easier to take a step back from society, and not be a joiner, not be a part of the crowd. People often get in the way of spirituality some say, mistakenly. These people don't seem to realize that true spirituality results from successful interpersonal relationships. "I'd rather isolate myself." I'd rather go to a place where there is purity, they say. I'd rather run to a place where there is no slander, no hate, no animosity and no jealousy, they argue. One cannot escape this world and for good reason, We grow through relating with each other.

We cannot grow without each other. Human interaction is essential to our well being. Those who seek separation from their fellow Jews are a sorry lot indeed. What a waste of their spiritual lives!!

By ourselves we are a broken shekel. We must be involved with other Jews. Not even Moses could make it on his own. The message of the Half Shekel is: Do not alienate yourself from your people. As the Perek teaches: "Do not separate yourself from the community." We need each other to complete each other. May all our people come to realize this truth. The great message of the half shekel is: Return to your people, O' Israel.

## PURIM

In the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, on its thirteenth day ... on the day that the enemies of the Jews were expected to prevail over them, it was turned about: the Jews prevailed over their adversaries. - Esther 9:1  
 And they gained relief on the fourteenth, making it a day of feasting and gladness. - Esther 9:17  
 [Mordecai instructed them] to observe them as days of feasting and gladness, and sending delicacies to one another, and gifts to the poor. - Esther 9:22

Purim is one of the most joyous and fun holidays on the Jewish calendar. It commemorates a time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination.

The story of Purim is told in the Biblical book of Esther. The heroes of the story are Esther, a beautiful young Jewish woman living in Persia, and her cousin Mordecai, who raised her as if she were his daughter. Esther was taken to the house of Ahasuerus, King of Persia, to become part of his harem. King Ahasuerus loved Esther more than his other women and made Esther queen, but the king did not know that she was a Jew. Because Mordecai told her not to reveal her identity.

The villain of the story is Haman, an arrogant, egotistical advisor to the king. Haman hated Mordecai because Mordecai refused to bow down to him, so Haman plotted to destroy the Jewish people. In a speech that is all too familiar to Jews, Haman told the king, "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your realm. Their laws are different from those of every other people's, and they do not observe the king's laws; therefore it is not befitting the king to tolerate them." (Esther 3:8) The king gave the fate of the Jewish people to Haman, to do as he pleased to them. Haman planned to exterminate all of the Jews.

Mordecai persuaded Esther to speak to the king on behalf of the Jewish people. This was a dangerous thing for Esther to do, because anyone who came into the king's presence without being summoned could be put to death, and she had not been summoned. Esther fasted for three days to prepare herself, then went into the king. He welcomed her. Later, she told him of Haman's plot against her people. The Jewish people were saved, and Haman was hanged on the gallows that had been prepared for Mordecai. The book of Esther is unusual in that it is the only book of the Bible that does not contain the name of G-d. In fact, it includes virtually no reference to G-d. Mordecai makes a vague reference to the fact that the Jews will be saved by someone else, if not by Esther, but that is the closest the book comes to mentioning G-d. Thus, one important message that can be gained from the story is that G-d often works in ways that are not apparent, in ways that appear to be chance, coincidence or ordinary good luck. It is taught that the Almighty prefers to work His wonders within the laws of nature.

Purim is celebrated on the 14th day of Adar, which is usually in March and some years, in late February. The 13th of Adar is the day that Haman chose for the extermination of the Jews, and the day that the Jews battled their enemies for their lives. On the day afterwards, the 14th, they celebrated their survival. In cities that were walled in the time of Joshua, Purim is celebrated on the 15th of the month, because the book of Esther says that in Shushan (a walled city), deliverance from the massacre was not complete until the next day. The 15th is referred to as Shushan Purim.

In leap years, when there are two months of Adar, Purim is celebrated in the second month of Adar, so it is always one month before Passover. The 14th day of the first Adar in a leap year is celebrated as a minor holiday called Purim Katan, which means "little Purim." There are no specific observances for Purim Katan; however, a person should celebrate the holiday and should not mourn or fast. Some communities also observe a "Purim Katan" on the anniversary of any day when their community was saved from a catastrophe, destruction, evil or oppression.

The word "Purim" means "lots" and refers to the lottery that Haman used to choose the date for the massacre.

The Purim holiday is preceded by a fast, the Fast of Esther, which commemorates Esther's three days of fasting in preparation for her meet with the king.

The primary commandment related to Purim is to hear the reading of the book of Esther. The book of Esther is commonly known as the Megillah, which means scroll. Although there are five books of Jewish scripture that are properly referred to as megillot (Esther, Ruth, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and Lamentations), this is the one people usually mean when they speak of the Megillah. It is customary to boo, hiss, stamp feet and rattle gragers (noisemakers) whenever the name of Haman is mentioned in the service. The purpose of this custom is to "blot out the name of Amalek from whom Haman was a descendant.

We are also commanded to eat, drink and be merry. According to the Talmud, a person is required to drink until he cannot tell the difference between "cursed be Haman" and "blessed be Mordecai," though opinions differ as to exactly how drunk that is. A person certainly should not become so drunk that he might violate other commandments or get seriously ill.

In addition, recovering alcoholics or others who might suffer serious harm from alcohol are exempt from this obligation.

In addition, we are commanded to send out gifts of food or drink, and to make gifts to charity. The sending of gifts of food and drink is referred to as shalach manos (sending out portions). Among Ashkenazic Jews, a common treat at this time of year is hamentaschen (lit. Haman's pockets). These triangular fruit-filled cookies are supposed to represent Haman's three-cornered hat or ears.

It is customary to hold carnival-like celebrations on Purim, to perform plays and parodies, and to hold beauty contests. Americans sometimes refer to Purim as the Jewish Mardi Gras.

Purim is not subject to the Sabbath-like restrictions that some other holidays have; however, some sources indicate that we should not go about our ordinary business on Purim out of respect for the holiday. It is in keeping with the spirit of the holiday to enjoy the company of family and friends at a special Purim festive meal called a Purim Seudah.

**Please note: This year the Fast of Esther is observed on Thursday, March 20, 2019**

**MEGILLAH READING IS AT 7:15 PM**

## The extra Adar 436 words by Lois Stone

A single word. Different meanings. Leap. There's a leap of faith which is quite different from a leap in the dark. And the phrase leaps and bounds indicates progress. A leap in a track meet indicates jump. Leap-out suggests something is apparent instantly. And the Gregorian Calendar, about every four years in the month of February, includes a February 29th called leap day.

February 2019 in our Jewish calendar has "the extra Adar". In Aramaic, the words are Ibbur Year.

A secular twelve months adds leap years as a corrective measure, "because the Earth does not orbit the sun in precisely 365 days." Our lunar-cycle calendar has each month 29.5 days, so how can we keep meaningful holidays coming out in a correct way? Pesach is a spring rite. Without a 'leap', when might it fall as time passes? We'd be 33 days off after only three complete seasons.

An extra month of Adar slows up the process. This 5779 calendar will allow Pesach to take place in the familiar season.

Is there a quiet message with the extra adar? Time gone can never be retrieved. But, with an 'extra', have we a chance to consider how precious life is, how rapidly months are replaced, how relationships need nourishment? Have promises we made to both ourselves and others been kept? Did behavior we believed to be detrimental actually cease? Were we bored when speaking to a relative and so wanted the call to end? Did we let the answering machine take a voice message because we preferred to not have any conversation at that time? In a couples-society, did we actually stay in contact with a widow or a widower or dismiss because only a pair is part of our social life?

Sure, we think these things during the High Holidays, but generally resume the rhythm of our daily living often repeating indifference rather than indicating kindness, we play out the power games generally accepted by our peers who then play one-upmanship with us. A stay-at-home mother, by choice, is regarded as weird as who we are seems to come from job definition. The "I want" and the "me-too" finds its comfortable home until the next High Holidays, briefly leaves, then returns at sunset.

Extra-Adar might give us moments outside of the usual days of every week. Rabbis have said that Moses was born in a leap year. And Haman failed to eradicate the Jewish people when the lot he drew was Adar. A sign? Perhaps. No matter, as we have this time now. And this year we've the gift of 'extra'. How might we use it?

**mini bio:** Lois Greene Stone, writer and poet, has been syndicated worldwide. Poetry and personal essays have been included in hard & softcover book anthologies. Collections of her personal items/ photos/ memorabilia are in major museums including twelve different divisions of The Smithsonian. The Smithsonian selected her photo to represent all teens from the 1940's-50's.

Lois Greene Stone's father, Leo Greene was the Founder and President of Flushing Jewish Center. Her mother was the President of the Ladies Guild. Both her parents lives revolved around the Center. Lois and her sister graduated from the Center's school and both got married in the Flushing Jewish Center.

חג שמח

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