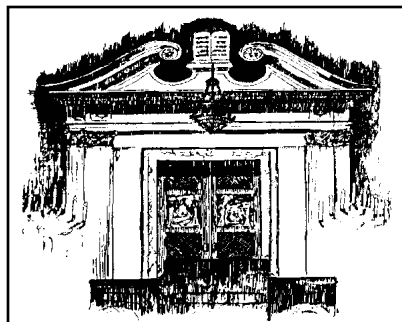


Astoria Center of Israel Bulletin

The only CONSERVATIVE Synagogue in the
Astoria—Long Island City—Woodside Area



Volume LXXIX

December 2004

No. 4

Candle Lightings: 4:10, 4:10, 4:12, 4:15, 4:20

18 Kislev 5765

Harold Spivack, Rabbi

George Lindenblatt, Cantor

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK



In one of the stories of the wise men of Chelm a humble Jew asks the Rabbi: “Why is it that the rich drink cream while the poor drink sour milk? What can be done about this injustice?” The Rabbi replies: “The solution is simple. What we must do is just switch the labels on the bottles. Then the rich will be drinking sour milk and the poor will be drinking cream.”

One of the most difficult problems facing those who cherish truth, among the “old-fashioned values” people are thinking about these days, is that skilled propagandists have been able to manipulate the meanings of words to convey connotations different from that which is ordinarily meant. Terrorist then becomes freedom fighter, protestor becomes traitor, war hero becomes opportunist. Thus, also, liberal becomes communist, Israeli becomes aggressor, and the victim becomes the criminal. All one needs to do is to repeat the big lie for the lie to become the truth.

We are living in a time when it is so easy for those who control the media to twist the meanings of words into their opposites. What we need in this era of a flood tide of “information” is intensive instruction to teach people how to interpret what we are fed, how to get the truth out of the distortions and lies that bombard us at every moment. As a culture of consumers, whose economy is so heavily dependent on our eagerness to ingest, it is all the more important that we know how to separate the wheat from the chaff. Do we really need to consume everything because if we don't our economy will falter and collapse? Are we therefore condemned to wallow in a culture of lies, junk, needless things, shlock art and music?

As a religious community that cherishes truth as a genuine moral value, we should strive to beware of what we accept as “truth,” “moral values,” “art,” “piety,” and even “a friend of the Jews.”

Rabbi Harold Spivack

The Festival Of
Lights

MAKE FRIDAY NIGHT
CENTER NIGHT
WORSHIP WITH YOUR FAMILY



Schedule of Services

Friday Night Service
Friday, December 3
Candles4:10 pm
Services8:00 pm

Sabbath Morning Service
Saturday, December 4
Services9:30 am
Weekly Portion: VAYESHEV
Sabbath ends.....5:15 pm

HHH
Friday Night Service
Friday, December 10
*Light 4th Chanukah candle before
Sabbath candles*

Candles4:10 pm
Services8:00 pm
*A Shabbat Chanukah Dinner starts
at 6:30 pm in our social hall*

Sabbath Morning Service
Saturday, December 11
Services9:30 am
Weekly Portion: MIKETZ
Sabbath ends.....5:15 pm

HHH
Friday Night Service
Friday, December 17
Candles4:12 pm
Services8:00 pm

*Suzanne Lindenblatt Gilad
will read an I.B. Singer short story*
Sabbath Morning Service

Saturday, December 18
Services9:30 am
Weekly Portion: VAYIGASH
Sabbath ends.....5:17 pm

HHH
Friday Night Service
Friday, December 24
Candles4:15 pm
Services8:00 pm

Sabbath Morning Service
Saturday, December 25
Services9:30 am
Weekly Portion: VAYECHI
Sabbath ends.....5:20 pm

HHH
Friday Night Service
Friday, December 31
Candles4:20 pm

Sabbath Morning Service
Saturday, January 1
Services9:30 am
Weekly Portion: SHEMOT
Sabbath ends.....5:25 pm

HHH
The Center will host the onegei shabbat & kiddushim

**SPECIAL EVENTS
IN DECEMBER**



**Friday, December 10
Shabbat Chanukah**



After you light the 4th Chanukah candle followed by the Sabbath candles, come experience Shabbat Chanukah, ACI style. A festive Chanukah dinner, catered by Aaron's Gourmet of Rego Park, will feature roast chicken, potato latkes with apple-cranberry swirl, vegetable medley, spinach soufflé, egg barley with mushrooms, and dessert—starting at 6:30 pm in our social hall. Fee is \$15; advance reservations imperative (call Joyce in the office, 718-278-2680). We then move to the sanctuary for our Shabbat Chanukah Service, as together we welcome the Festival of Lights.

**Sunday, December 12
Annual Membership Meeting**
See p. 3.

**Tuesday, December 14 & 28
Café with Orkestra Popular**



An evening of informal fun, as Art Bailey & Co. bring new meaning to the term tune-ful toe-tapping. Be on hand at 7:30 pm; \$5 admission.

**Wednesday, December 15
Jelly 'n Jam**

We celebrate the conclusion of Chanukah with a double treat: Margot Leverett's down-home Klezmer Jam session, accompanied by jelly doughnuts for all. 7:30 pm; plan to have a great evening.

**Friday, December 17
DRAMATIC READING OF
ISAAC BASHEVIS SINGER'S
"THE PARAKEET NAMED DREIDEL"**

To continue our centennial tribute to Yiddish writer I.B. Singer, our own Suzanne Lindenblatt Gilad, actress and voice-over artist, will read from his work at our Shabbat service, 8:00 pm. A delight for children of all ages.



DECEMBER 31

No late Friday night service.
Regular Shabbat morning services
on January 1, 2005.

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Members,

The annual meeting of the Center membership will be held at the Center on Sunday, December 12, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Coffee and cake
2. Presentation of annual reports
3. Questions, comments and suggestions
4. Election of members of the Board of Trustees and Governors
5. Consideration of such other business as may legally be presented.

The official candidates are as follows:

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND GOVERNORS
2005**

TRUSTEES

Three-Year Term Ending 2007

Bea Blas	Meyer M. Dreher	Abraham T. Muscatello
Robert Bluh	Dr. Robert E. Felsher	Andrea Pack

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Term Ending 2005**

Teresa Bailey	Dr. Jacob Groopman	Margot Leverett
Sally Constain	Phylis Hochberg	Rose Ratnoff
Lotte Finnochiario	Andrew Kertesz	Roberta Saltzman
Davina Gelber	Ruth Levy	Isadore Seiden
Cynthia Groopman		Sylvia Steinberg

The following continuing members of the Board of Trustees are not due for election or reelection at this time.

Trustees

Term Ending 2006

Ruth Blumenthal	Jonah Cohen	Martha Michaels
Elaine Brichta	Rita Goldberg	Al Opoliner
	Murray Lambert	

Trustees

Term Ending 2005

Sydelle Diner	Abraham Marcus	William T. Melnick
Zelda Hampton	Steven Markowitz	Alex Siegel
Dorothy Horowitz		Mark Sohmer

The following continuing officers are also not due for election or reelection.

OFFICERS 2004-2005

Abraham T. Muscatello	President
Abraham Marcus	Vice President
Ruth Blumenthal.....	Treasurer
Murray Lambert	Financial Secretary
Steven Markowitz.....	Recording Secretary

In addition, continuing Honorary President Meyer M. Dreher will not be subject to additional elections for this position.

Additional candidates for Governor or alternative candidates for Trustee may be placed in nomination by petition signed by ten members in good standing. Such a petition must be filed with Alex Siegel, chairman of the Nominating Committee at the Center, at least 6 days prior to date of election and only members in good standing may be nominated.

You owe a duty to yourself and to the Center to attend this meeting.

Abraham (Tom) Muscatello, President

FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Because of the outpouring of interest in our Art Exhibit & Silent Auction, it is necessary that we move the date from December 5 to March 13, 2005. This will allow us adequate time to collect the art & artifacts, for both exhibit & auction, as well as to mount a wide publicity campaign to bring a large turnout. This promises to be a memorable afternoon, and now is the time for each of you to get involved in whatever capacity you can. Leave a message at the Center office, 718-278-2680, and a member of the committee will get back to you. Details to come!

Report from...

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

A Cultural Center

That we are a religious center has always been understood, but in recent years we have expanded our horizons and become a home to music as well, as exemplified by the success of the Klezmer Jam Sessions and the ACI Café. We are broadening our scope further with the Art Exhibit & Silent Auction planned for the Spring. Many of our members are talented artists and this event will afford them the chance to exhibit their work at the Center for the first time. (See above box.)

The Wine & Cheese Party of October 17 was a very successful endeavor, enjoyed by over 50 people. Rabbi Spivack's slide show of beautiful paintings on ancient synagogues was but an introduction to his elaboration of the symbolism of the paintings in our sanctuary. The wine-tasting party concluded a convivial afternoon. We thank Rabbi Spivack, Phylis Hochberg, Andrea Pack, Elaine Lindenblatt, members of the Special Events Committee, & Anna Maria Borg for helping to create the afternoon.

November was Jewish Book Month, and the Rabbi spoke after services on modern Jewish writers. One of the memorable writers of the 20th century was Isaac Bashevis Singer, born 100 years ago. Roberta Salzman, Assistant to the Chief Librarian at the Dorot Division of the 42nd Street Library, shared her expertise with us at the Nov. 19 oneg following services, to the delight of all present. To continue our appreciation of Singer's works we are fortunate to have actress Suzanne Lindenblatt Gilad do a reading of one of his stories at Shabbat services on Dec. 17.

"The Center has become known worldwide as a cultural center," said Margot Leverett at the last board meeting. Through the magic of e-mail and the Web our activities are known beyond our imagination. Try to come to the events we have planned for your enjoyment. We have much for which to be grateful.

Sydelle Diner, Chairperson

FAMILY NEWS

CORRECTION

We apologize to Geraldine Resnick and to Sam Goldstein, for the error in listing her donation to the Center Fund in the October issue. It is stated correctly in this issue. We're especially happy to report that Sam is doing well in Florida. We miss his smiling face at the Center, and wish him, daughter Sandra Levine, and the entire family continuing good health.

Road to Recovery

Speaking of Florida, Claire Arrian sends word from West Palm Beach that she is well on the road to recovery, and conveys thanks for all the prayers and get well donations.

Anniversary Alley

Best wishes to our honorary member Arthur Richman & his bride Martha, celebrating their Silver Anniversary.

Simcha Street

Best wishes to Steve Markowitz on his 50th Birthday. We thank wife Juliette for hosting the Nov. 27 kiddush in honor of the occasion.

LADIES GUILD

Zelda Hampton, President



We next meet on Tuesday, December 14, at 1:00 pm., when we will discuss the Spring schedule of events. Join us.

Zelda

A.C.I. SOCIAL CLUB

William Melnick, President

We'll be celebrating Chanukah with our annual commemorative program, slated for Saturday, December 11, at 8:00 pm. Let's enjoy the holiday together. See you then!

Bill

**The Rabbi, Cantor,
President, and Officers
extend wishes for a
happy and healthy
Chanukah**



We kindle the first candle on Tuesday, December 7...

HOW TO LIGHT THE CHANUKAH CANDLES



Inasmuch as the ceremony of the kindling of the lights is the most significant phase of Chanukah, it should be observed in a spirit of reverence and solemnity. The lights should be kindled as soon as possible after nightfall. However, every effort should be made to see to it that all members of the family are present at the ceremony of the lighting of the candles. Not only men, but women and children as well, may kindle the Chanukah lights.

Light the "shamash" candle first. This is then used to light the other candles. On the first evening of Chanukah, one candle is kindled. It is placed on the *far right as you face the menorah*. On the second night and on each succeeding night, the candle for the particular evening, which is to the left, is lighted first.

On Friday, the Chanukah candles are kindled before the lighting of the Sabbath candles, and on Saturday night the Chanukah candles are kindled after *Havdalah*, which marks the conclusion of the Sabbath.

POEM OF THE MONTH

It's the end of 2004,
and I invite each of you
to send in a rhyme
for **YOUR DUES ARE DUE.**

ADULT EDUCATION



Rabbi Spivack welcomes inquiries re a class for prospective converts to Judaism, to begin in January. Call the Center office to contact him.

LOOKING AHEAD

There will be no Friday night services for the months of January & February. Friday services resume in March & April.

OUR CENTER FUNDS

We are grateful to our friends for their contributions to our...

CENTER FUND

Geraldine Resnick-In memory of sister-in-law Ruth Goldstein on her Yahrzeit.

Edith Fuld-In memory of sister-in-law Selma Hartman Fuld.

Richard Tischler-In memory of wife Elsie.

Mark Sohmer-Yiskor for parents Hyman & Sarah Sohmer, grandparents Rose & Max Dash and Ethel & Morris Sohmer; in memory of father Hyman, in memory of Tom Muscatello's great-aunt Ersilia, thanks to Tom Muscatello for hosting a pre-service social hour.

Maurice & Marilyn Krantz-In memory of parents Abram & Pearl Holtzman.

Jeffrey Glatzen-In memory of Frances & Sam Glatzen.

Rona Simon-In memory of mother Rae Friedlander.

Bill & Florence Melnick-Congratulations to Allison Nunes on her Bat Mitzvah.

Everett A. Eisenberg-In memory of father Dr. David Eisenberg.

Annabelle Nemser-In memory of brothers Julian, Myron, and George Fondiller.

Sylvia Steinberg-In memory of brother Meyer Friedman, and Tom Muscatello's great-aunt.

Susan Saunders-In memory of father Leslie Wetzler.

Ena Fassler-In memory of in-laws Anna & Harry Fassler.

Ann Marrero-In memory of father Peter Michaels.

Funds (cont'd on back page)



Yahrzeit Anniversaries



The following names will be read from the pulpit immediately preceding the kaddish at our sabbath services. The families of the dear departed ones are invited to attend our services and participate in the kaddish prayer.

<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Kislev</u>				
1	18	Rebecca Mishler			Anne Sager
2	19	Herman Horowitz	18	6	Eugene Wigod
		Ethel Kaplan			Bernard Krum
		Esther Eisenberg	19	7	Lena Frank
		Minnie Nadel	20	8	Henry Gressey
3	20	Josheph Heller			Henry L. Goldberg
		Dr. Joseph Mitchell			Morris I. Kuhl
4	21	Max Gold			Mildred Janofsky
		Rosalind Lederer	21	9	Alice Mito
5	22	Samuel Ostrov			Annie Schiffer
6	23	Mamie Amster			Miksa Schiffer
		Morris Klein	22	10	Milton Siegel
		Theodore Grunwald			Elsie Fassler
7	24	Basha B. Kupfier			Paula Neuburger
		Joseph Kamlet			Celia Risik
8	25	Rose Blumenfeld	23	11	Gertrude D. Rubin
		Dr. Ludwig H. Mendelson			Dora Arian
		Henrietta Leinwol			Hinda Kopelman
9	26	Ida Greenberger	24	12	Jennie Friedlander
10	27	Dora Suntheimer	25	13	Harry Finkelstein
		Dr. Jacob Telsey			Ruchel Kisslinger
		Emma Cohn	26	14	Benjamin L. Markowitz
		Irving Ostrow			Samuel H. Grieff
11	28	Celia Lambert			Max Miller
12	29	Sylvia Robbins			Jennie Diner
			27	15	Abraham G. Cohen
13	1	William Shumacher			Morris Alterman
14	2	Louis Fondiller	28	16	Norma Weinberg
		Harriet Levine	29	17	Elsie Flatow
15	3	Joseph Baer			Bessie Ostrow
		Rachel Smith			Joseph M. Schwartz
		Dr. I. Morton Braunschweig			Edward Gunsberg
		Arthur Wm. Young			Samuel Citron
		Samuel Rosenzweig	31	19	Nathan A. Goldenthal
16	4	Rebecca Jacousky			Risa Hirschler
		Dr. Harold Fruchter			David Shraberg
17	5	Jonah Pritz			Moses Mendel
					Leon Flatow

*They still live in the acts of goodness they performed
and in the hearts of those who cherish their memory.*

On the yahrzeit of a loved one,
it is appropriate to give charity.
Consider making a donation to one of
our Center Funds, on the preceding page.

PERPETUATE THE MEMORY OF
YOUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES
WITH A MEMORIAL PLAQUE
IN OUR SYNAGOGUE.
CALL THE OFFICE FOR ALL DETAILS.

Funds (cont'd from p. 5)

Irene Stern-In memory of Robert Stern.
Ruth Blumenthal-Get well to Claire Arrian and Charlotte Kramer; in memory of Sharon Raphael's mother.
Daniel & Delores Seligmann-In memory of Rabbi Joshua Goldberg.
Claire Arrian-Chai, to thank all for their prayers & donations for her speedy recovery.

CANTOR COHN FUND

Bea Blas & Family-In memory of brother Lester W. Schulman.

Words from the Wise



A.C.I. Board of Trustees & Governors

For exciting Chanukah gifts, visit the Ladies' Guild shop—your one stop for value! Whatever the season, whatever the reason, a gift from the Ladies Guild is a gift from the heart.

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Elaine LindenblattEditor

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Friday 10 am to 2:00 pm
Closed on Sundays and Holidays

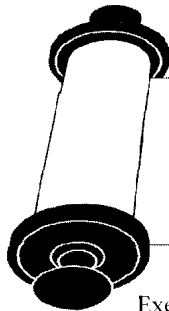
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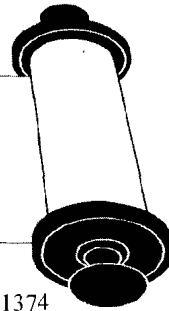
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