



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Tzav Shabbat Hagadol

April 4, 2009 10 Nisan, 5769

**TORAH
ARTSCROLL,
568
HERTZ, 429**

**HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL,
1167
HERTZ, 439**

GNS TEFILLA DIGEST: A Weekly Discussion about the Fundamentals of Jewish Prayer

By Rabbi Brahm Weinberg – Rabbinic Intern

This inspiring article about tefillah is sponsored by Diane and David Rein in memory of Diane's mother, Helene M. Fink z"l.

Issue # 36 – Hallel on Pesach Night (Part II)

Last week we began to discuss the interesting case of the recitation of Hallel on the first two nights of Pesach (outside the Land of Israel). The Hallel is recited as part of the seder but in many shuls it is also said after the Maariv prayers. I mentioned that the Rema in his gloss to the Shulchan Aruch says that it is *not* the custom of the communities of Ashkenaz to recite the Hallel in shul on the night of Pesach. However, I also mentioned that it has become a prevalent custom in many Ashkenazi shuls today to recite it.

I don't think I have ever received as many comments about any issue of the Tefilla Digest as I did this past week. So many people came up to me in shul last shabbos with something to say on the topic of reciting Hallel on the night of Pesach. Many people said that one of the downsides to reciting Hallel in shul is that it delays the start of the seder. With the changing of the clocks and the fact that one can only begin the seder after nightfall it makes for a very

late start as it is. When you add in Hallel in shul it does make the seder start slightly later than it already has to start. The late hour is especially burdensome on families that have younger children or older parents at the seder. Wanting them to be awake and be participating is a very legitimate concern considering that the theme of the evening is one of parent-child interaction via the telling of the story of *yetziat mitzrayim* and reliving some of the experiences through the rituals of the seder.

Jack Lipsky mentioned to me that he had once asked Rabbi Wolf zt"l about reciting Hallel on Pesach night. Rabbi Wolf told him that we take every opportunity we have to praise Hashem.

I also discovered based on a few conversations that despite the fact that it is *no longer* the custom in Great Neck Synagogue to recite Hallel on the night of Pesach, back in the 1970's it was the custom in our shul.

I would like to thank Ben Lunzer for bringing to my attention an entire Torah booklet that was written on this subject of saying Hallel on Pesach night and for being kind enough to give me a copy. I was alerted to many new sources and interesting stories from this booklet and some of them will appear in these issues of the Tefilla Digest.

Last week I mentioned that this recitation of Hallel at night is an

anomaly. While we do not usually recite Hallel at night, since we recite Hallel over the occurrence of a miracle and the miracle of the exodus from Egypt began on the night of the 15th of Nisan it gives us extra reason to break custom and recite Hallel on the seder night.

The recitation of songs of praise on the night of the seder has a long standing history dating back to the very first Pesach in Egypt.

In Pirke D'Rebi Eliezer (Chapter 47) (which is midrashic work on sefer breishit and parts of shmot whose authorship some attribute to R. Eliezer ben Horkanus) it says: "R. Yehudah said: That entire night [of *yetziat mitzrayim*] the Israelites were eating and drinking, **rejoicing and praising** their G-d out loud, whereas the Egyptians were crying out bitterly because of the great plague [*makat bechorot*] that was suddenly upon them."

In more direct terms, Midrash Shmot Rabba (18:1) says that on the night of the exodus "the Egyptians were crying...and the Israelites were reciting **Hallel**." What exactly is meant by this is unclear. What "hallel" were they reciting in Egypt on the night of the exodus?

The Yerushalmi actually would have us believe that they were reciting verses from the "Hallel" that we recite today. The Yerushalmi (Pesachim 5:4) says that for forty days Pharaoh was going around urging the Israelites to finally leave his country and he said to them: "In

Times	
Candle lighting	7:04 pm
Mincha	7:00 pm
Hashkama	8:00 am
Minyan	
Parsha Shiur	8:30 am
Youth	8:30 am
Main Minyan	9:00 am
Beit Midrash	9:15 am
Mincha	6:40 pm
Drasha	7:05 pm
Shabbat Ends	8:13 pm
Sunday,	7:30 am
April 5,	8:30 am
Mon., & Thurs	6:35 am
Tues., Wed., & Fri.,	6:45 am
Second Shacharit Minyan (Daily)	7:45 am
Mincha (week of April 5)	7:10 pm
Latest times for Shema/Shmoneh Esrei	
April 4	9:45/10:49 am
April 11	9:39/10:44 am
Next Shabbat - Shabbat Chol Hamoed	
Candle lighting	7:11 pm
Mincha	7:10 pm

KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

SHABBAT HAGADOL DRASHA THE CUSTOM OF YACHATZ: GIVING THE MATZAH A BREAK MINCHA 6:40 PM DRASHA 7:05 PM

the past you were my servants, but from now on you are only servants to Hashem. At that moment they [the Israelites] said ‘*halleluya hallelu avdei hashem*’ ‘halleluya praise o ye servants of Hashem’ and not servants of Pharaoh [a verse from Tehillim 113 – the opening line of the Hallel we recite].”

According to a different version of this Midrash, the Israelites did not say this in reaction to Pharaoh’s words, but in reaction to Moshe telling them they would leave Egypt the next morning.

The claim of the Midrash and of the Yerushalmi that these verses of Hallel were recited in Egypt is somewhat strange since Hallel is a collection of verses from Tehillim which was composed by David Hamelech much later in history. It could be that when the Midrash says that they were reciting “Hallel” it just means they were reciting general songs of praise for Hashem. We later ended up calling the sections of Tehillim 113-118 Hallel as well. Alternatively, when the Yerushalmi claims that the Israelites in Egypt actually recited *this* pasuk from Tehillim 113 maybe they did really recite that verse and then David Hamelech decided to include that verse in Tehillim because of its historic importance.

This final explanation is even more plausible in light of another statement by the Gemara in Brachot. The Gemara refers to two sections of our prayers as Hallel: *Hallel Hagadol* and *Hallela Mitzra’a*. *Hallel Hagadol* refers to Tehillim 136 in which every line begins with “*hodu*” and ends with “*ki leolam chasdo*” (we recite this chapter in *pesukei de’zimrah* of Shabbos – p.384 in the Artscroll Siddur). *Hallela Mitzra’a* refers to the Hallel we recite on holidays (Tehillim 113-118).

The reason the Gemara refers to our Hallel as the Egyptian Hallel is because one of its central chapters, 114, is all about praising G-d for the exodus from Egypt. However, we might also claim that it is called the Egyptian Hallel because its verses really do have their origin in an early recitation by Jews in Egypt and were later included in Tehillim by David Hamelech.

Since the theme of the night of Pesach was always one of praise for Hashem and of song maybe even via the medium of the Hallel so well known to us, it would make sense that we would continue that tradition with the recitation of Hallel of the seder night. Moreover, it seems like the praise and song of the Jews in Egypt was public in nature. This would give us added reason to recite the Hallel in shul which is a very public forum in addition to reciting it at home during the seder.

Thought to Ponder

What do you think of the Jews reciting some form of Hallel on the night of the exodus from Egypt? Do you think it was appropriate, necessary, and tasteful or do you think that there was something inappropriate or strange about it?



**Great Neck Synagogue
Shabbat Activities Program**

- Dale Polakoff, Rabbi**
- Shalom Axelrod, Assistant Rabbi**
- Brahm Weinberg, Rabbinic Intern**
- Dr. Ephraim Wolf, z”l, Rabbi Emeritus**
- Zeev Kron, Cantor**
- Eleazer Schulman, z”l, Cantor Emeritus**
- Mark Twersky, Executive Director**
- Howard Silberstein, President**
- Harold Domnitch, Chairman of the Board**

SHABBAT AND PASSOVER SCHEDULE

5769-2009

Tuesday, April 7th

Bedikat Chometz this evening

EREV PESACH

Wednesday, April 8th

Shacharit with Siyum for First born 6:30 am
7:45 am

Bircat HaChammah is said this morning and an Eiruv Tavshilin should be prepared

Chometz may not be eaten after:

Magen Avraham 10:18 am
Vilna Gaon 10:46 am

Chometz must be destroyed by:

Magen Avraham 11:38 am
Vilna Gaon 11:51 am
Candle lighting 7:09 pm
Mincha 7:10 pm

PESACH I

Wednesday night, April 8th

Kiddush after (first Seder) 8:08 pm

Thursday, April 9th

Main Shul 9:00 am
Beit Midrash 7:10 pm

PESACH II

Thursday night, April 9th

Candle lighting after 8:09 pm

Preparations for the second Seder

Should not begin before 8:09 pm

Friday, April 10th

Main Shul 9:00 am
Beit Midrash 9:15 am
Mincha 7:10 pm

SHABBAT CHOL HAMOED

Main Shul 8:45 am
Beit Midrash 9:00 am

Shir HaShirim is read this morning

Shiur 6:05 am
Mincha 7:05 pm
Shabbat ends 8:20 pm

CHOL HAMOED

Sunday 7:30 am/8:30 am

Monday, Tuesday 6:30 am/7:45 am

Mincha 7:20 pm

PESACH VII

Tuesday night, April 14th

Candle lighting 7:15 pm
Services 7:20 pm

Wednesday, April 15th

Main Shul 9:00 am
Beit Midrash 9:15 am
Mincha 7:20 am

PESACH VIII

Wednesday night, April 15th

Candle lighting after 8:24 pm

Thursday, April 16th

Main Shul 9:00 am
Beit Midrash 9:15 am

Yizkor is part of this service

Mincha 7:20 pm
Yom Tov ends 8:26 pm
Your Chometz can be eaten after 8:55 pm

YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

FANYA GOTTESFELD HELLER

A LEADING EDUCATOR AT THE
MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE IN NEW YORK CITY

WILL SHARE HER EXPERIENCES OF

“SURVIVING IN THE UKRAINE

WITH THE HELP OF TWO CHRISTIAN RESCUERS”

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2009 , 8:00 P.M.

Now that you have seen the movie and heard all about
Birkat Hachama
come hear Rabbi Axelrod explain this special prayer,
Monday, April 6th at 8 pm.

Great Neck Synagogue Mens Club

Thursday April 2nd at 8:00 pm

Seminar

Tax Free Dollars for Yeshiva and other school Education

The Coverdale Education Savings Account (ESA)

Come and learn from the expert, **Marc Kalter**, about a little known **tax-free way** that can have a substantial benefit in light of the enormous expense parents incur when providing a private school education for their family. This account can be used to pay for **qualified expenses in school grades K-12 as well as college and graduate studies**.

After tax dollars grow tax-free and can be withdrawn tax-free as long as they are used for **qualified education expenses** such as tuition and fees, required books, supplies and equipment (such as computers), tutoring expenses and expenses for room and board.

- The **April 15th deadline** is fast approaching and you can still take advantage of the Coverdale for the 2008 tax year.

The Coverdale can have contributions of \$2000 per child per year and the source(s) can come from a **parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle** and the benefit can be passed down to other siblings if not used.

This plan can be established in addition to a 529 Plan. 529 funds may only be used for college or graduate studies NOT for grades K-12.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RABBI REISMAN SATURDAY NIGHT TELECAST

Weinstein Torah & Technology Center Sat., 9:30pm www.gnstorah.org

MECHIRAT CHOMETZ

Please remember to arrange for the sale of your Chometz by seeing **Rabbi Polakoff** with your Mechirat Chometz form. Forms are available in the Synagogue office, in the Passover edition of Scope, and can also be downloaded online at www.gns.org as a last resort, the form can also be submitted electronically from our website. Please also remember to send in your donations to the Maot chittan appeal for the Emergency Fund.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Sunday Breakfast is sponsored by **Ruth & Milton Mitzner** in memory of Ruth's parents, **Aryeh ben Yitzchak Boruch** and **Gitel bas Chova Nesanel** and her sister **Mindl bas Aryeh**. And by, **Yaffa & Ebrahim Gabbazadeh** in memory of his sisters **Mahin Elana bat rabi Shlomo** and **Yehudit Chaya bas rabi Shlomo**.

LADIES DANCE CLASS

There will be no dance classes until after Pesach! Class will resume April 22nd.

UPCOMING MEN'S CLUB EVENTS

April 2nd 8pm - Coverdale tax free education Seminar.
 May 6th 8pm- Talk by **Michael Tuchfeld**, Commentator and correspondent Israel TV2 News—The Knesset Channel 99, co-sponsored by JPEF, publisher of the Jewish Political Chronicle.
 May 13th 8pm - Klezmer Band in conjunction with Dos Yiddish Vort.
 June 6th Sunday morning - Semi-annual blood drive.

TWO VIDEO OPPORTUNITIES ON BIRKAT HACHAMA

This year on Erev Pesach, Wednesday April 8th, Klal Yisrael will recite the blessing of Birkat HaChama, the blessing on the sun, which is recited only once every 28 years.

1. Special repeat showing of "The Inner Meaning of the Birkat Hachama" at GNS, on Tuesday, March 31st. at 8pm. **Rabbi Avraham Chaim Feuer** and **Rabbi Paysach Krohn**, will provide deep, and inspiring insights into the inner meaning of the Bracha.
2. Live Broadcast of a shiur by **Rabbi Moshe Heimemann** and **Rabbi Dovid Heber** from Baltimore this coming Thursday night April 2nd, 9pm in the Weinstein Torah and Technology Center.

RABBI POLAKOFF THURSDAY CLASSES

Rabbi Polakoff's Women's morning Chumash and evening Power Chumash will not meet this week, and will resume after Pesach, on April 23rd.

CHOMETZ FOOD DRIVE

Cleaning for Pesach? Bring your chometz to Great Neck Synagogue on Tuesday evening March 31st between 7 and 8:30pm to the Coat Room Lobby. The food will be donated to a local food pantry.

PESACH QUESTIONS

A new service is provided to our members and friends on our shul website. A forum has been created which will allow you to ask a question on Pesach (a product, a seder question, anything you might be interested in) and one of our Rabbis will respond as quickly as possible. By browsing the forum you'll be able to see the questions that others have asked that you yourself might have. Check it out and let us know what you think. In order to ask a question you'll have to register as a user of the forum (a 2 minute process). Log into the new forum at www.gns.org/forum

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

The Sisterhood of GNS would like to thank **Margery Libin** for organizing and hosting a wonderful Pre-Pesach shiur by **Morah Susan Lieberman**. It was a great success!

SAVE THE DATE GREAT NECK LADIES NIGHT OUT

The 57th Annual Combined Sisterhoods will be held at Temple Beth El, Thurs. April 30th at 6pm. With award winning author **Beth J. Harpaz**, as our guest speaker, delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts by Lederman Caterers, a boutique, and raffle prizes! We are proud to participate in this community event, and encourage you to become an event sponsor for \$36. Reservations are required! RSVP at 487-6100 or email drein@verizon.net. We are collecting toiletry items to donate to victims of domestic violence in conjunction with the UJA. Please drop off donations in the synagogue office by April 24th.

DRIVERS NEEDED

Drivers are needed to deliver food for Tomchei Shabbos on Wednesday evenings. A once a month commitment is needed. Call **Jeff Bilfeld** at 509-0396. Earn chesed hours for school.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Mazal Tov to **Nechama & Billy Liss-Levinson** on the birth of a granddaughter, **Sadie Annaliss**, born to their children **Bluma & Jeff Sussman**.

Mazal Tov to **Phyllis & Paul Weinberg** on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter **Caroline Weinberg**.

ALPIANS GARMENT CARE-DISCOUNT CARD

The Sisterhood of GNS is excited to announce that it is selling a special discount card for \$10 that can be used at Alpians Garment Care, 4 Welwyn Road (next to Shop Delight) which includes 10% off any incoming dry cleaning order of \$15 or more- and it includes free cleaning of a tallit. This is great for your pre-Pesach cleaning. To purchase a discount card, please come in to the synagogue office.

CHESED TRIP TO THE UKRAINE

Inspired by his daughters, **Shoshana** and **Chaya Sara's** previous trip through the NCSY, **Rabbi Jensen** will be hosting a Pesach Seder for 250 under privileged persons at the Kharkov OU Center in the Ukraine. He's bringing gifts, and taking the children out for Chol Hamoed, and is looking forward to sharing his experience with the community upon his return. If you'd like to donate to this cause, checks can be made payable to Legacy 21, for more info call Rabbi Jensen at 662 9572.

SAVE THE DATE

2nd Annual "Koby Memorial Day Baseball Game," for the benefit of Camp Koby and the victims of terrorism: Monday May 25, 2009 3 games: ages: 6-12; 13-18; and 19 and up! See **Barry Libin** for details.

NEWS FROM NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL

North Shore University Hospital is building a wonderful new Chesed Room. It will be stocked with food, challah and a refrigerator. It is located on the 4th floor Tower Building near the Palliative Care Unit. Anticipated grand opening is before Pesach. For questions, please contact the Pastoral Care Department at 562-4013.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday morning, April 26th, there will be a networking breakfast for those seeking jobs, and those that have jobs or advice to offer. This event is the first in a series that chazakchazak.org is organizing. Please see **Lisa Stein** for more info.

SAM AHARONOFF MEMORIAL SHIVTEI TORAH CAMPAIGN

The NSHA and the NSHA High School, in conjunction with the greater Great Neck Jewish Community, will hold a historic campaign that will involve the dedication and commissioning of 12 new Sifrei Torah. All proceeds from the campaign will support the Sam Aharonoff Memorial Scholarship Fund to help offset tuition costs for dozens of needy students. For more info: www.shivteitorah.org, or **Arnie Flatow** 487-8687 ext 2.

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Saturday, 10 Nisan

Sheila Bachman for Mildred Lewit
 Iraj Kashani for Yousef Kashani

Sunday, 11 Nisan

Paul Brody for Harvey Brody
 Lev Dynkin for Meishe Ber Shifman
 Semyon Dynkin for Meishe Ber Shifman
 Sharon Goldwyn for Belle Goldwyn
 Phyllis Jadidian for Diana Shapiro
 Mitchell Siegel for Edith Turner
 Steven Zuckerman for Evelyn Zuckerman

Monday, 12 Nisan

Miriam Glaubach for Rachel Herlinger
 Sidney Ingber for Irene Ingber

Tuesday, 13 Nisan

Nadine Eckstein for Tillie Engel

Wednesday, 14 Nisan

Annette Forman for Marlene Olk
 Robert Herman for Frank Herman
 Shirley Spiegelman for Ida Shankman

Thursday, 15 Nisan

Mark Gold for Regina Gold
 Leonard Kahn for Rachel Kahn
 Mina Kotler for Pearl Rodzynek

Friday, 16 Nisan

Marc Gottlieb for Sarah Schwartzman