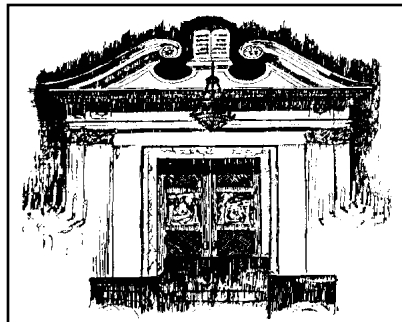


Astoria Center of Israel Bulletin

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



Volume LXXIX

May 2005

No. 9

Candle Lightings: 7:39, 7:46, 7:53, 7:59

22 Nisan 5765

Harold Spivack, Rabbi

George Lindenblatt, Cantor

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK



A Jewish Pope?

The recent death of Pope John Paul II prompts the questions: Are we Jews better off without a single spiritual leader, such as a Jewish pope?

There are certain advantages to having a single authority to proclaim the doctrine of the faith. In the Roman Catholic Church the Pope is given absolute authority over all the teachings of the Church and is therefore considered to be infallible when he is speaking *ex cathedra*—in the role of his office and not just personally. The Vatican, therefore, controls with strict authority everything that the Church proclaims as binding upon the faithful.

Judaism, however, does not have the same kinds of dogmas that Catholicism has. In the Catholic religion, for many centuries the official position of the faith was that there is no salvation outside of the Church. This is still the rigid position of many evangelical and pentacostal sects whose aggressive missionizing of Jews is motivated by a deep-rooted belief that we Jews are doomed to perdition unless we convert to their way. To Pope John Paul II's credit, he led the way toward the abrogation of this doctrine with regard to the Jews.

In Judaism, the sole authority we recognize is the Law of Moses, which, in effect, has made each individual Jew responsible for his or her own actions. By following the laws of the Torah we perform the deeds that God has taught us. Our salvation is that we have fulfilled the law of the Eternal, creating a better world for all, and fulfilling the destiny of the People of Israel to be a light unto the nations. What this has done is to democratize Judaism. We need no intermediary to communicate with the Almighty, and we need no priesthood to sanctify our rituals. Salvation, in the Jewish sense, is open to all.

We Jews have to be wary of extremist sects of our own people, such as the disciples of the late Meir Kahane who set themselves up as holier-than-thou, claiming infallible authority regarding the exclusivity of their views on the restoration of the Temple in Jerusalem and the ethnic cleansing of the Holy Land, as recently depicted in a TV documentary. They will not stop at violence and other draconian measures. The world cannot tolerate extremists who would incinerate the world to achieve their own ends.

Rabbi Harold Spivack

MAKE SATURDAY MORNING
CENTER MORNING
WORSHIP TOGETHER WITH
YOUR FAMILY



Schedule of Services

Sunday, May 1	
8th Day of Passover	
Services	9:30 am
Yizkor - Memorial Service ..11:00 am	
Festival ends	8:40 pm
HHH	
Friday, May 6	
Yom HaShoah	
Candles	7:39 pm
Sabbath Morning Service	
Saturday, May 7	
Services	9:30 am
Weekly Portion: KEDOSHIM	
Sabbath ends.....	8:44 pm
HHH	
Friday Night Service	
Friday, May 13	
Candles	7:46 pm
Sabbath Morning Service	
Saturday, May 14	
Israel Independence Day	
Services	9:30 am
Weekly Portion: EMOR	
Sabbath ends.....	8:51 pm
HHH	
Friday Night Service	
Friday, May 20	
Candles	7:53 pm
Sabbath Morning Service	
Saturday, May 21	
Services	9:30 am
Weekly Portion: BEHAR	
Sabbath ends.....	8:58 pm
HHH	
Friday Night Service	
Friday, May 27	
Lag B'Omer	
Candles	7:59 pm
Sabbath Morning Service	
Saturday, May 28	
Services	9:30 am
Weekly Portion: BEHUKOTAI	
Sabbath ends.....	9:04 pm

HHH

The Center will host the onegei shabbat & kiddushim unless otherwise noted.

SPECIAL EVENTS IN MAY

Note: No Klezmer jam session in May. Margot Leverett & Pals are taking a well deserved rest. We look forward to welcoming them back soon.

YOM HA'SHOAH PROGRAM

Friday, May 6, 7:00-9:00 pm

Through the lighting of six candles, through poetry, song, prayer, film footage, together we mark Holocaust Remembrance Day. Bring a survivor and/or a story to pass on. Bring a prayer, song, or reading that has personal meaning as related to the Shoah. Add your voice, or simply your presence, to this evening of commemoration as conceived by Tom Muscatello, who will host the oneg.

SIEGEL WINDOW DEDICATION

Saturday, May 7

The Center honors two pillars of the A.C.I., Jeanne & Alex Siegel, with the dedication of a window in our sanctuary. Please join us for sabbath services as we pay tribute to the Siegels, who recently celebrated their 50th Anniversary. Daughters Sara & Barbara will host the kiddush in honor of the double simcha.

ATLANTIC CITY BUS TRIP

Wednesday, May 18

Did you know that, due to the tireless efforts of Ladies Guild president Zelda Hampton, we reap the fundraising benefits of a monthly bus trip to Atlantic City, leaving directly from the Center. Join your friends and fellow members on May 18 for a day of fun. Call the office to sign up.

CAFÉ SOCIETY

Tuesday, May 31, 7:30 pm

Art Bailey & his Orkestra Popilar are back for another melodic earful of merry melodies. Come add your toe-tapping presence—\$5 admission, delectable refreshments for sale.

Looking Ahead

Save the date: Friday, June 10, for a pre-Shevuot Shabbat (dairy) dinner. \$15 per person: RSVP to Center office at 278-2680 by June 3.

POEM OF THE MONTH

How to make us merry
in the month of May:
PAY YOUR DUES—
there's no other way.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Bea Blas-our Journal Honoree. There is no better choice for this honor. I want to ask every Bulletin recipient to spend a few moments to reflect on how important this annual fundraiser is. It is an opportunity to express our admiration and respect for Bea, who has given so much of herself over the years for the betterment of the Center. We are placed in a wonderful situation to recognize Bea by making a donation to the Synagogue, the focus of Bea's volunteerism for decades. Your contribution will create security for yourself and for all of us in terms of maintaining the ACI's activities and services. The Center can stay alive only through the contributions of its members and friends, because there is no umbrella organization over our heads that provides us with funds.

Please go above and beyond in pledging dollars in Bea's honor. If you have already given, we thank you for your support. If you have already given but wish to upgrade your generosity, please send in another check. If you have not yet given and are determining what to give, think of the crisis that faces shuls across America. How many articles have you read in the past five years that highlight the closing of synagogues in the tristate area? To the friends of our community who receive the Bulletin to stay connected, please consider sending in a check to assist us in this, our largest fundraiser of the year.

Iris Murdoch once wrote that there is no substitute for the comfort supplied by the utterly taken-for-granted relationship. I would agree with agree with this to a certain point. However, more appropriate is Benjamin Disraeli's "never take anything for granted" as it relates to our outlook about our house of worship/cultural center, and our financial obligation to it.

To soften my tone in this plea, Michelangelo once said that he saw the angel in the marble and carved it until he set him free. The press keeps the disappointment of closures chiseled into our mindfulness about synagogue life. Let's free ourselves from worry about our future. Together, we can create masterpiece-like viability by sending money that will only be spent to enhance the experience within our beautiful Community.

My sincere gratitude!
Abraham "Tom" Muscatello

Report from...

SPECIAL EVENTS

It's spring, and Special Events ideas are popping up. We are investigating the possibility of auctioning on the web some of the beautiful items left over from the Art Auction.

Just peeping into view is the thought of having a concert in the fall. Also planned are appealing events before major Jewish holidays that would interest families with children. Somehow Special Events is taking on a broad swath of territory, including submitting the application to have our Center designated an Historic Building.

Special thanks to Joyce Kerrigan for all her help with the Committee. We have boundless ideas, and diligent workers who will cultivate these ideas. We hope that you, our members, will reap the harvest with your participation and active interest.

Sydelle Diner, Chairperson

Holocaust Remembrance Day is May 6...

Words from the Wise

It is the lot of man to suffer, it is also his fortune to forget.

-Benjamin Disraeli

FAMILY NEWS**Birth Blvd**

Mazel tov to Beryl & Leonard Rosendorf on the arrival of granddaughter Ameerah. May she be a source of great joy.

Appreciation Alley

We extend heartfelt thanks to Stanley Back, son of the late Mary & Joseph Back, for his ongoing generous support of the ACI.

We thank Joel Michaels & family for hosting the April 9 kiddush in memory of mother Nettie Michaels.

In Sympathy

Sincere condolences to Rebecca Trontz and family on the passing of husband Alan Trontz.

Sincere condolences to Lori Shandle and family on the passing of father Jerome.

May their memory be for a blessing.

Thank You from

Cantor George & Elaine Lindenblatt, for all the expressions of congratulations on the recent aufruf of son-in-law Paul Kahn and on Nicole & Paul's marriage in San Diego.

LADIES GUILD*Zelda Hampton, President*

There are no meetings until further notice.

Our sincere sympathy to Rebecca Trontz on the passing of her husband Alan.

See p. 2 for mention of our Atlantic City trip. Hope to see you on the bus!

*Zelda***A.C.I. SOCIAL CLUB***William Melnick, President*

Our next meeting, on Saturday, May 14, at 8:00 pm, will feature "Writing Memories—It Doesn't Have to Rhyme," a TV video on the JASA writing workshop held here at the Center.

We are grateful to Sydelle Diner for lending us the tape and suggesting the program.

Members are invited to join us to view another of our interesting programs.

*Bill***OUR CENTER FUNDS***We are grateful to our friends for their contributions to our...***Center Fund**

Jay & Phyllis Spielberger, Hannah & Robert Bluh-Speedy recovery to Florence Melnick.

Helen Schwartzberg-In memory of uncle Jacob Feinberg.

Beryl & Leonard Rosendorf-In honor of the birth of granddaughter Ameerah, and in honor of the marriage of Nicole Lindenblatt to Paul Kahn.

Mark Sohmer-Get well to Sally Constain's daughter-in-law Nicole, and to Florence Melnick; in honor of the marriage of Nicole Lindenblatt to Paul Kahn; in memory of Lori Shandle's father; on yahrzeit of Mark's grandfather Max Dash.

Henry & Alyce Assael-In memory of Betty Friedman.

Elaine Brichta-In honor of the marriage of Nicole Lindenblatt to Paul Kahn, and in memory of Lori Shandle's father Jerome.

Steve, Judy, Jill & Leah Markowitz-Get well wishes to Florence Melnick; in honor of the marriage of Nicole Lindenblatt to Paul Kahn; in memory of Rebecca Trontz's husband Alan.

Shirley Levine & daughters-Wishing Mike Dreher a speedy recovery.

Samuel & Elizabeth Friedman-In honor of Sydelle Diner's birthday.

Rose Ratnoff-In honor of Nicole Lindenblatt's marriage to Paul Kahn; get well to Florence

Melnick; in memory of Susan Pearlman's grandmother Ida Yablon; speedy recovery to Dale Brichta.

Ruth Blumenthal-In honor of the marriage of Nicole Lindenblatt to Paul Kahn, and Paul's auf ruf kiddush. Get well wishes to Florence Melnick.

Lotte Finnochiaro, Rose & Izzy Seiden-In honor of the marriage of Nicole Lindenblatt to Paul Kahn; get well to Florence Melnick.

Rita Goldberg-In honor of the marriage of Nicole Lindenblatt to Paul Kahn.

Alvin & Esther Friedman-In memory of our parents Bertha & Hyman Friedman and Anne & Maxwell Sager.

Ceil Chiprut-Get well to Florence Melnick.

Tom Muscatello-In honor of Nicole Lindenblatt's marriage to Paul Kahn; thanks to Sydelle Diner, Teresa Bailey, Rabbi Spivack and wife Frieda, Elaine Lindenblatt, Phyllis & Jay Spielberger, Andrea Pack, Phyllis Hochberg, Martha Michaels & Egon Brandel for your contributions to the Silent Auction-you all did a wonderful job; in memory of Lori Shandle's father.

Doris Chait-In memory of father Isaac Bogart.

Mrs. Louise Samuels-In memory of Dr. Hilda Ratner Dressler.

Janet Albert-In memory of mother May Edzant.

Geraldine Kusnetz-In memory of husband Milton & father-in-law Morris.

Charlotte Kramer-In honor of Nicole Lindenblatt's marriage to Paul Kahn; get well to Florence Melnick; in memory of Harry & Hannah Summers.

Stanley M. Back-In memory of parents Joseph & Mary.

Alex & Jeanne Siegel-In memory of Ruth Levy & Alan Trontz; get well to Florence Melnick; in honor of the marriage of Nicole Lindenblatt to Paul Kahn.

Abraham Amsilay-In memory of father Moshe ben Joseph & Margalit Amsilay, mother Rachel bat Simon & Hana Amsilay.

Nina Matathias-Yiskor for husband Jacob Matathias.

Sylvia Steinberg-In memory of husband Bernard, for selling of chometz, yiskor for loved ones.

Andrea Pack-For selling of chometz.

Arthur & Paul Meyers-Passover yiskor for parents Sally & Maurice Meyers.

Herbert Arak & family-In memory of Dr. Charles Arak.

Ed & Sally Constain-Get well to Florence Melnick.

Juliette Markowitz-In memory of Betty Tyree.

Norman & Frances Kempin-In memory of Irwin Frish.

Martha Michaels-In honor of Amy Michaels' Bas Mitzvah; in honor of Nicole Lindenblatt's marriage to Paul Kahn; speedy recovery to Doris

Funds (cont'd on back page)



Get or give an ad! We need your cooperation to make the 2005 Journal, honoring **Bea Blas**, our biggest and best ever. (See President's Pen, p. 3.)

ALL ADS MUST BE IN BY MAY 8

Annual Journal Service - Friday, June 24

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>MAY</u>	<u>NISAN</u>					
1	22	Joseph Levinsky	17	8	Sadie Safir	
2	23	Bernard A. Birnbaum			Bernard Steinberg	
		Morris Stein			Esther K.Sammit	
		Yetta Witzling			Katherine Steiner	
3	24	Fannie Sharnack	19	10	Rebecca Markowitz	
		Morris Zeifman	20	11	Julius Marks	
		Harry H. Summers			Harry Robbins	
4	25	Bertha Sroka			Saul Sommers	
		Dorothy Shaker	21	12	Lillie Hollander	
5	26	Ida Weinstein	23	14	Jerry Finnochario	
		Samuel Friedlander			Mindel Eisenberg	
		Philip L. Weiner			William linder	
6	27	Rev. Samuel Dembowitz	24	15	Sayde P.Cohen	
		Elizabeth Pomerantz			Silvan L. Greenberger	
7	28	Annie Klein			Behora Benalabet	
		Samuels P. Samuels			Sara Dickstein	
		Ethel Freed	25	16	Adolph Nussenblatt	
8	29	Arthur Wohl			Mitilda Bader	
		Ethel Sohmer			Sadie Lehrman	
9	30	Samuel Tugender			Esther Wasserman	
	<u>IYAR</u>		26	17	Bertha Samuels	
10	1	Yetta Alterman			Harry A Schneider	
		Ethel Padian			Morris Fuld	
11	2	Philip Dembowitz			Frieda Moss	
		Morris Schwartz			Rebecca Pomeranz	
12	3	Bessie Aron Franklin	27	18	Dora Kaplan Rabinowitz	
		Theresa Pett			Isidore Jackson	
		Emanuel Rubin			Leon Lippman	
13	4	Bella Zwicker	28	19	Piroksa Lindenblatt	
		Jack L. Blas			Leo Nagel	
		Rose Bard	29	20	Harold Goldberg	
14	5	Elizabeth Mary Fondiller	30	21	Morris Magidow	
		Annie Leinwol			Morris Kemp	
15	6	Sarah Petchersky			Leonard Isser	
		Sam Lebrys	31	22	Isaac Weill	
16	7	Louis Borscher			Gussie Borsher	
		Milton J.Gromet			Sarah Kaplan	
		Armin Diamond			Moe Cohen	
					Max Himoff	
					Hyman Weinstein	
					Grete Meyer	

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 p. 4.

PERPETUATE THE MEMORY OF YOUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES WITH A MEMORIAL PLAQUE IN OUR SYNAGOGUE. CALL 278-2680 FOR ALL DETAILS.

Funds (cont'd from p. 4)

Sherman; welcome home to Florence Melnick; in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Gary Segal's mother Shirley Segal.

Zelda Hampton-In memory of brother Dr. Abraham Jackson and nehew Murray Jackson; in honor of Nicole Lindenblatt's marriage to Paul Kahn and of Florence Melnick's homecoming.

Joel, Virginia, Joseph & Michelle Michaels-In memory of mother and grandmother Nettie Michaels.

Rebecca Trontz & Family-In memory of husband and father Alan Trontz.

Ann Marrero-In memory of mother Nettie Michaels.

Martha Michaels, Judy Markowitz-Selling of the chometz.

CANTOR COHN FUND

Sydelle Diner, Sandra Novick, Bea, Mitch & SueAnn Blas, Abrahm Amsilay-In honor of the marriage of Nicole Lindenblatt to Paul Kahn.

Cantor George & Elaine Lindenblatt-Get well wishes to Florence Melnick.

LADIES GUILD FUND

Martha Michaels, Jean Simon-Get well to Florence Melnick; in honor of the marriage of Nicole Lindenblatt to Paul Kahn.

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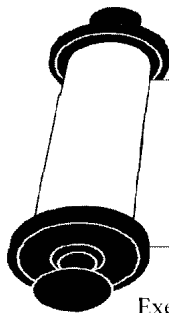
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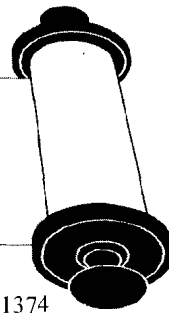
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