

# Scharf's Ateret Avot Star Spring 2010

**YOM YERUSHALAYIM –  
CELEBRATING OUR  
ETERNAL CAPITAL WITH SONGS,  
TALKS AND PRECIOUS MEMORIES**



All Jewish holidays and occasions are celebrated with the proper reverence and enthusiasm at Ateret Avot, and Yom Yerushalayim on May 12 was no exception. At a special program, talks were given on the significance of events 43 years prior when an advancing Jewish army took full control of the Old City of Jerusalem and the shofar was blown at the Kosel, the Western Wall.

**Phyllis Schindler**, Ateret's Chorale Society director, led guests and staff in the singing of the famous song, "Jerusalem Shel

Zahav." Next, Rabbi Etan Tokayer, the rav of the Kingsway Jewish Center, gave an inspiring and informative talk on the central role of Jerusalem in our lives. He said that just as Zechariah's prophecy of 2,000 years ago came true that the Jewish people would be back in Jerusalem, we can also have emunah that all the other prophecies will one day come true, including the complete redemption of our people.

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**"We must never forget that  
Jerusalem is our past, our  
present and our future."**

**--Phyllis Schindler**

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Guests were given a chance to talk about what it was like the first time they visited Israel. Said **Sylvia Skolnik**, "As we (her husband **Leon Skolnik** and other relatives) walked down the steps of the plane, our eyes looked up to Hashem." Soon after, they "bent down and kissed the ground. It was the most wonderful feeling you could imagine." When **Phyllis Schindler** first saw the Kosel, she recalled that "it was thrilling. The tears just kept coming down my face. I

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## YOM YERUSHALAYIM (Continued from Previous Page)

joined the other women saying Tehillim and davening.

“We must never forget that Jerusalem is our past, our present and our future.”

**Fay Gritz** expressed a fervent wish that all the Jews of Israel could overcome their differences in religion and politics and live united in the beautiful land.

## MAZEL TOV! - SHEVA BROCHOT WEDDING CELEBRATION IN ATERET'S DINING ROOM



by Phyllis Schindler

“Mazel Tov! Mazel Tov!” These happy words rang out in the dining room at Ateret Avot on Monday night, April 12. Our wonderful arts and crafts director, Badana, and her husband, Rabbi Aaron Gertz, were celebrating Sheva Brochot for their daughter, Meira, and their son-in-law Yitzchok Aharon Stern. Badana Gertz is one of those people whom everybody loves. To share in her simcha was a very special event.

Meira had visited us on several occasions. She is a beautiful, personable young lady and we are all happy for her whole family.

Mr. and Mrs. Scharf graciously hosted the evening. We, the residents, were

invited to attend. We had the pleasure of meeting the Chosen, Kallah, Rabbi Gertz, the Machatonim and Badana's mother. Badana's brother, Reb Alter, livened the room with his singing and music. The occasion was lebedig.

Mr. Scharf welcomed his guests. His charm and smile are second to none. Mrs. Scharf was lovely, as always, greeting everyone. Eli Scharf strutted as we all congratulated him on arranging the dining room and supervising the kitchen. Thanks must be given to our chef, Suriel, for a special menu. The festive meal consisted of honey sesame chicken wings, chicken noodle soup, pepper steak on a bed of rice and a dessert of pareve ice cream and tea.

**Rabbi Meyer Lubin** addressed the young couple with a beautiful Dvar Torah. After dinner, the Sheva Brochot were recited by several men who reside at Ateret Avot. It was very touching. Badana's brother ended the formal ceremony with singing to the music of his guitar.

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**Rabbi Meyer Lubin addressed the young couple with a beautiful Dvar Torah. After dinner the Sheva Brochot were recited by several men who live at Ateret Avot.**

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Rabbi Gertz thanked everyone for attending. Special appreciation was given to Mr. and Mrs. Scharf and Eli Scharf.

May the couple bring much Yiddish nachas to their families and to all of Klal Yisroel.

## A SPIRITUAL AND SPIRITED PASSOVER, THE ATERET WAY



On Passover, the tables were set with individual seder plates, just one of many personal touches that makes this Yom Tov and all Yom Tovim come alive for the guests.

With individual needs taken care of, people could more fully enjoy the “we’re all in this together” feeling engendered by spiritual and spirited Sedorim shared with friends and dynamic activities throughout the eight days.

But a lot happened prior to the Yom Tov to make it all possible. “At Ateret Avot, Pesach starts weeks before,” noted **Phyllis Schindler**. “Every corner of the building is scrubbed down. The carpeting in all the rooms are shampooed...Just before Yom Tov the ‘Chometz crew’ checks with their flashlights and removes any trace of chometz. The building shines.”

Comfortable that they were making Pesach in the proper way, the guests sat down to the communal Seder led by Rabbi Benzion Pitem, with some guests conducting their own seder. Rabbi Pitem also gave shiurim during the Yom Tov as did other speakers.

The traditional Chol HaMoed entertainment extravaganza where Ateret opens its doors to family (a number of generations) and friends featured the musical talents of Shlomo Drabin and the juggling (sometimes with pins on fire) and other specialty acts of Binjamin Liebler. Said **Jeanette Rubin**, “the entertainment was

good for youngsters and older people. Everyone enjoyed it. The children were sitting in awe. They were just amazed.” **Lillian Bernstein** was impressed with how Mr. Liebler rode his one-wheel bicycle through the crowd. “It was really astounding,” she said.

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**-- Jeanette Rubin**

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Beautiful davening, stimulating shiurim, lectures and musical programs along with sumptuous meals such as main courses of Swiss Steak and orange chicken were the order of the day and night. The feeling of the Yom Tov of being a free people reigned as guests were given the royal treatment.

Next year in Jerusalem.

## A FLOWERING MOTHER’S DAY

Carnation corsages of many colors were given out to the ladies of Ateret on Sunday, May 9, in honor of Mother’s Day. Rivka Dubin, a popular speaker throughout the year, regaled the guests with a talk on the Matriarchs of the Jewish religion and how we honor our mothers and our fathers.



“The program was beautiful,” said **Jeanette Rubin**. “Rivka Dubin spoke beautifully.” Added **Edith Birnbaum**, “They always have something nice here for every occasion.”

**MR. AND MRS. SCHARF HONORED  
BY BONEI OLAM; ATERET GUESTS  
WRITE AD FOR JOURNAL**

When Mr, and Mrs. Moshe and Rivka Scharf were honored by Bonei Olam, an organization that helps couples trying to have children, Ateret guests had an ad placed in the journal for their annual dinner held April 27, 2010.

The ad read: “Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Moses Scharf. We, the residents of Ateret Avot Senior Residence, salute you. You are most deserving of this tribute. Your generosity and chesed are well known. You care for our seniors by providing a warm, friendly environment and by this same generosity you give of yourselves to Bonei Olam for the other end of the spectrum – working to correct infertility problems. We are very proud of you and we are proud to be a part of the Scharf Ateret Avot family. Mazel Tov.”

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**“Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Moses Scharf...we are proud to be a part of the Scharf Ateret Avot family.”**

**- from ad by Ateret guests**

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Ateret staff also submitted an ad for this important occasion. May kindness continue to guide our ways.

**“THEY ARE OUR FUTURE”!  
THE JOY OF CHILDREN’S VISITS**

When children of Yeshivas come to Ateret Avot they are greeted warmly as they sing, talk with guests and give out cards. One guest once beautifully expressed what it meant to him to see a children’s choir. He called out, “They are our future!”

Children and teens often visit before a Yom Tov or as part of Chesed projects. Wrote one sixth grade girl from Sarah Dabah Elementary School in a card to a guest, “... I’m so happy to have an opportunity to meet you...I want to thank you for passing on the basics of Torah, That is why I have respect for you.”

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO VISIT OUR  
NEWLY REORGANIZED LIBRARY**

by Miriam Schenker



All residents are encouraged to visit our newly reorganized library, just past the piano in the lobby. It features fiction and non-fiction titles arranged in alphabetical order by author as well as a number of Jewish themed books and Seforim. We also have a nice selection of books from the Brooklyn Public Library which includes many books in large print.

Residents are also encouraged to make use of the computer located in the library. Whether to look up stock quotes, recipes, or the latest world news, the computer is there for all to enjoy.

**ENJOYING THE GREAT OUTDOORS**

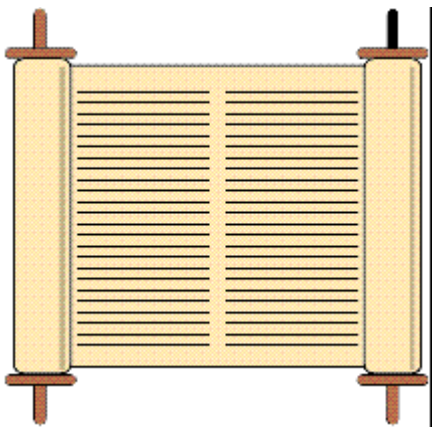
When Spring finally sprung, Ateret guests in great numbers began to take advantage of the great outdoors just outside the building. Whether it be in enjoying each other’s company, or the beautiful tulips or stimulating programs it’s a big hit to take in the fresh air. If anyone has suggestions for a trip, please see Alan.

## THE DEPTHS OF EUROPE; THE REBIRTH OF ISRAEL

On Holocaust Remembrance Day – Yom Hashoah – April 11, Professor Allen Koenigsberg gave an interactive talk on the tragedy that engulfed Europe, encouraging those who wanted to share their own experiences in the Holocaust to speak. The program concluded with a stirring lighting of candles by guests in memory of those who will never be forgotten.

From the depths of Europe, three years after World War II ended came the rebirth of the State of Israel in 1948. Ateret celebrated Israeli Independence Day – Yom Ha'atzmaut – on April 19 with a program lead by Alan, including a responsive reading of Israel's Declaration of Independence, often interrupted by spontaneous applause. Shoshona Averbach then provided musical entertainment, including a heartfelt rendering – with guests joining in – of “Hatikvah.”

## SHAVUOS – RECEIVING THE TORAH



From beautiful davening, to well received Shiurim and sumptuous meals, including desserts of mini cheese danishes and blueberry cheesecake, everything was in place for a fulfilling Shavuos, both for the soul and for the stomach.

To help elaborate on the themes of receiving the Torah, there were a number of Shiurim that had the lobby filled to capacity.

“Every rabbi who spoke had their own way of speaking,” said **Sylvia Skolnik**. “You felt their hearts were in every word they said.”

## CHESED ACTIVITIES ABOUND

The opportunities for chesed abound at Ateret as guests look for opportunities to help others. Each weekday Tehillim is said for those who need to recover from illness or need to be released from captivity. This reading is often led by **Jafa Wallach**, whose sincere and caring voice is appropriate for the occasion.

Currently, there is an ongoing fundraiser for Bnai Raphael, a chesed organization that distributes food and clothing to poor people in the Flatbush area. We have had fundraisers for other charitable causes and we have also raised funds for [pizza.org](http://pizza.org), an organization that provides pizza and other beverages to Israeli soldiers. We've also sent messages to the soldiers, including the following by **Roslyn Rothblatt**: “May G-d watch over you, like you watch over us.”

At Current Events and at other groups the guests have been following the saga of the three Yeshiva students from Bnei Brak in Israel who were arrested in Japan for bringing drugs in a suitcase that they thought were antiques for a charitable cause. With the interest level so high as to how they were doing, Rabbi Yaakov Bleich, the chief rabbi of Kiev and someone who has been advocating for the yeshiva students in Japan, was contacted and he agreed to speak at Ateret. Money was raised by guests and staff to help in the legal costs for the students and all were in rapt attention as Rabbi Bleich gave an update on their situation. Just another example of a strong interest being expressed at Ateret and an expert being brought in to speak on the topic.

There has also been a letter-writing campaign to Jonathan Pollard and the sending of scarves and sweaters for babies knitted at Ateret for Israeli families in need.

## A MARCH DOWN 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET – OUR SALUTE TO ISRAEL PARADE

Ateret Avot held its second annual Salute to Israel parade on Monday, May 24, the day after the Israeli Day parade in Manhattan. This event was the brainchild of **Phyllis Schindler** who reasoned that though they wouldn't be going to Fifth Avenue for the Manhattan parade, they would have their own parade outside of the Ateret Avot building.

Like last year, this year's march was a rousing success with a large number of guests waving Israeli flags and banners as they traversed the parade route. A highlight of the march was the singing and guitar playing of Meish Goldish who led the people in such songs as "Hevenu Sholom Alechem," "Tzena Tzena" and "Artza Alinu." After the march, the concert continued inside the lobby, complete with dancing and words of support for Israel.

For Mr. and Mrs. **Mendel and Hana Kozlowski**, the parade was very invigorating. Said **Mrs. Kozlowski**, a former Israeli soldier, the parade "was spiritually uplifting, as if you were participating in Israel." Added **Mr. Kozlowski**, "I feel very proud that we have our own country." When **Mendel** was a single man and was visiting Israel, when he first saw **Hana** he said to a relative, "That's a girl I'd like to marry." And now 54 years later, as a married couple, they continue to carry the flag for Israel.

Noted **Phyllis Schindler**, "May we do it again next year in good health."

## WELCOMING NEW GUESTS

Ateret's family-like atmosphere is certainly on display when we welcome new guests to our Home. They are introduced to their peers, shown around the home and a welcoming program is held in their honor. Since our last newsletter we have welcomed **Benjamin Goodnick, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac and Olga Ickowics, Mayer Neuhoff,**

**Sylvia Reiter, Mr. and Mrs. Philip and Muriel Rubin, Sol Schlanger and Morris Finkelstein.** Each person has contributions to make and we wish them a pleasant and fulfilling stay.

## A PROGRAM WITH THE RIGHT INGREDIENTS AND A TASTY CONCLUSION

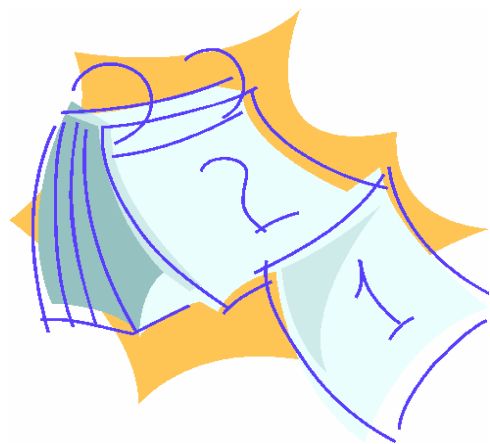


At periodic food preparation groups, guests get to roll up their sleeves and show their culinary talents. And soon after they get to eat the fruits of their labors.

At the May 3 morning group, Badana led the guests in making cinnamon raisin rugelach in the recreation room. From rolling out a piece of dough to sprinkling in the right ingredients and then slicing it like a pizza into eight triangular pieces and then rolling it into the shape of rugelach and putting it into baking pans the guests had a satisfying hands-on experience. After it was baked in the oven, each person received what they had made by the end of lunch.

Said **Lillian Bernstein**, over the years "I have to admit that I didn't bake often enough. Rugelach appeared to be difficult to make. I bought it in the store. But Badana showed us how to do it and it was actually very easy." Commenting on the end product she said, "It tasted delicious. I had it for eight days." If anyone has suggestions for what to make in future food preparation programs, perhaps your own special recipe, please see Badana or Alan.

## LOOKING BACK AT WHAT WE DID



### ASSEMBLY FOR THE RELIEF EFFORTS IN HAITI

After the devastating earthquake in Haiti this past January, Ateret Avot guests and staff contributed to help in the relief efforts. Mr. and Mrs. Scharf and New Century announced that they would contribute three times the amount raised. At a special assembly held in the tea room on January 28, the contribution box was opened and there was \$500 in there. Mr. and Mrs., Scharf and New Century added \$1,500 more to make for a \$2,000 donation sent to American Red Cross – Haiti Relief and Development Program. May the Ateret family continue to be there for each other.

### GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AND ROOTING FOR EACH OTHER AT ATERET'S WINTER OLYMPICS

For a number of weeks during the winter Ateret guests participated in a variety of sports and other activities as part of the annual Winter Olympics held here. As much as people wanted to win, that's how much they rooted for their peers through such activities as basketball, bowling, ring toss, word power, name-that-tune and stack-the-cookies. Special thanks to **Jeanette Rubin** for keeping score throughout the Olympics.

Before many of the major events the Ateret Avot cheer was read and people

waved pom poms and shook maracas in true cheerleading style. The cheer is as follows:

**Hip hip hooray, let's give a cheer  
A new Olympics is really here  
Let's hear it now, for 2010  
We'll shout it loud, again and again -  
Basketball, kickball, all the fun  
We wait patiently to see, who has won**

**So hit the ball, and make those points  
Besides it's good for arthritic joints  
We don't care if we lose or win  
It's all in the fun –  
So let the games begin!  
Yay!**

In honor of the closing ceremonies of the Olympics, **Phyllis Schindler** led the Ateret Avot Choir in a “Musical Look at the Siddur”. Some of the solo presenters in the program were **Selma Hollander, Miriam Rosenthal, Edith Birnbaum** and **Jeanette Rubin**.

After this presentation, the winners of the Olympics were announced and they received customized medals to wear around their necks. The three third place winners were **Sarah Goldberg, Sandy Cohen** and **Phyllis Schindler**. The second place winner was **Lillian Bernstein** and the first place winner was **Jeanette Rubin**. Everybody who participated was a winner and we look forward to the upcoming Summer Olympics.

### “DANCES WITH THE STARS” –PART 2

The first Ateret “Dances With the Stars” program – based on the popular television show – was such a success that around eight months later a second dance competition was held on February 4. Guests and staff had the opportunity to show their dancing prowess to music they liked either as a solo act or with partners or groups. Everything from Mordechai Ben David to Chubby Checker singing “Let's Do the Twist” was danced to. It was nice to see staff  
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## “DANCES WITH THE STARS”-PART 2 (Continued from Previous Page)

so enthusiastically take part and guests enjoyed seeing them in a different role.



Miryam Netanel served as judge and at the conclusion of the program the following winners were announced: From the guests - **Frieda Oppenheimer, Sylvia Skolnik, Mendel Kozlowski and Fay Gritz.** From the staff – **Sherrette Anderson, Herone Bazile, Paulett Harriott and Darryl DeLeon.** They received “Winners Certificates” and flowers. All participants and all in attendance were winners for being a part of such a unifying and uplifting program. Looking forward to “cutting the rug” again in the Summer.

### SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to **Sarah Goldberg, Jonas Kirschbaum, Jeanette Rubin and Phyllis Schindler** for their contributions in putting together this newsletter. Also, a thank you to: Esther Leah Papier, for volunteering on Monday afternoons: Zlatie Katz and Faygie Eidlisz for helping out during Shabbos and Yom Tov davening; Miriam Schenker for her Recreation Internship and for all of the Torah speakers and other volunteers who give so much.

### NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICE

A notary public service is offered by **Phyllis Schindler** at no charge to Ateret Avot residents and staff. Ask for her at the front desk. She welcomes inquiries.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Health Talk**, led by Sheila Lendzin, Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. in the lobby;

**Pictionary**, led by Etele Gutnik, Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the lobby;

**Yiddish Talk**, led by Badana Gertz, Mondays at 11:30 a.m. in the synagogue;

**Literary Club**, led by Alan Magill, Tuesday afternoons, 3:45 p.m., in the lobby;

**Circle of Friends**, led by Dr. Evelyn Llewellyn, counselor, Tuesdays at 11:15 a.m. in the Recreation Room;

**Tehillim Class**, led by Tzirel Rubin on Wednesdays at 4:45 p.m. in the Rec. Room;

**Dof Yomi** with Rabbi Chaskel Scharf, Sunday-Thursdays at 2:30 p.m. and 11:15 a.m. on Fridays in the synagogue;

**Mishnayos Learning** with **Rabbi Meyer Lubin** after Mincha in the synagogue; he also teaches **Jewish History from the Tanach** on Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. in the synagogue.

**Pirkei Avos** shiur given by Rabbi Gershon Rothstein on Shabbos afternoons in the Summer at 4:15 p.m. in the lobby;

**Chumash Class** with Chaim Kadin on Tuesday afternoons at 4:15 p.m. in the shul;

**Torah talks and sing-alongs** by Rabbi Benzion Pitem, who is the Shabbos and Yom Tov rabbi;

**Torah Stories** with **Phyllis Schindler** on late Shabbos afternoons in the lobby.

### IN REMEMBRANCE

The Ateret Avot family sends its condolences to the families of **Helen Kasdan, Sylvia Lit, Frieda Oppenheimer, William Rosenfeld, Esther Ugovitz and Natalie Zacharia** on their passing. They touched the lives of the people here and they are missed. May their memories be a blessing to us all.

### A GOOD SUMMER TO EVERYONE

Wishing everyone a good Summer and all the blessings of health and happiness now and always. We look forward to the **July 4<sup>th</sup> Barbecue** and other exciting events.

