

Scharf's Ateret Avot Star Spring 2011

A SPIRITUAL AND ENJOYABLE PESACH ENHANCES OUR LIVES



Passover at Ateret was spiritually uplifting and chock full of dynamic programs as guests enjoyed the sederim, a scintillating entertainment program and an atmosphere of togetherness.

Prior to Yom Tov there were stimulating Torah talks given by the very popular Rabbi Gershon Rothstein and others to help prepare everyone for the meaning of this special time. Also, meticulous care was taken to see that all guest rooms and the whole building was cleaned for Passover. All of the details of Pesach were observed including the burning of chometz outside the building on erev Yom Tov.

Then came the night that is “different from all other nights” as the guests came into the dining room and saw that the tables were set with individual seder plates, just one of the many personal touches that makes this

Yom Tov and all Yom Tovim come alive for the people here.

On both the first and second nights the communal seders were led by Rabbi Benzion Pitem, with some guests conducting their own seders with visiting family and friends.

The traditional Ateret Chol HaMoed entertainment extravaganza where the Home opens its doors to family (a number of generations) and friends featured the scintillating musical talents of the “Ot Ozoy Klezmer Orchestra” led by Rabbi Yitzchak Shimonov. The four piece orchestra and a singer performed exquisitely and the show was enhanced by the dancing of Mr. Scharf and his grandchildren.



“It was more sophisticated than the usual Klezmer orchestras,” said **Sylvia Reiter**. “It
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A WONDERFUL PESACH (Continued from Previous Page)

was very good quality music.” **Jeanette Rubin** noted that the band was “full of life.” She added that it was “very good to see the aides get up and dance.” **Danny Kastner** added that it was “a pleasure” to see Eli’s little children dancing.

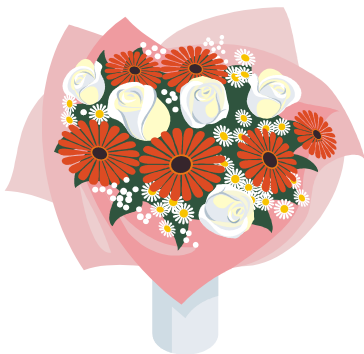
“The Hallel was just marvelous. It gave us the feeling of opening up doors.”

-- Jeanette Rubin

In addition to Rabbi Pitem, visiting family members led the prayer services over Yom Tov and the guests found it very uplifting. “The davening was the best,” said **Danny Kastner**. “The (people) sang along. It’s not usually like that.” Added **Jeanette Rubin**, “The Hallel was just marvelous. It gave us the feeling of opening up doors.”

May we continue to experience each Yom Tov in a meaningful and enjoyable way.

SPECIAL MOTHER’S DAY PROGRAM



Ateret ladies were feted on Mother’s Day, May 8, as they received carnations and were part of a special program for everyone. Rabbi Simcha Weinstein, book author and

humorist gave a poignant and funny talk entitled “From Oy to Joy.” A special Father’s Day program is scheduled for June 19.

FEELING THE JOY ON ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY



The two programs about Israeli Independence Day -- Yom Ha’atzmaut -- at Ateret highlighted just how important our Homeland is to our guests. The first, held prior to Yom Ha’atzmaut, was at the monthly Emunah meeting of the Sarah Hertzog chapter held in the shul. After Ateret guests mingled with the chapter members, and the business meeting was conducted, the guest speaker regaled those in attendance with an account of what happened on that fateful day – May 14, 1948 – when Israel was reborn as a nation.

Audience members shared their memories of what they were doing when they heard the joyous news. A few days later, on the actual day of Independence, a second program was held which included Badana giving a firsthand account of how exciting it was to live in Israel on Yom Ha’atzmaut.

A responsive reading of the Israeli Declaration of Independence ensued with spontaneous applause occurring when the words were read that Israel was reestablished as a nation. The program included a heartfelt singing of “Hatikvah,” led by **Hana Kozłowski**, a former Sergeant in the Israeli Defense Forces. We look forward to our very own Israeli Day Parade after Shavous.

SHARING EXPERIENCES ON HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

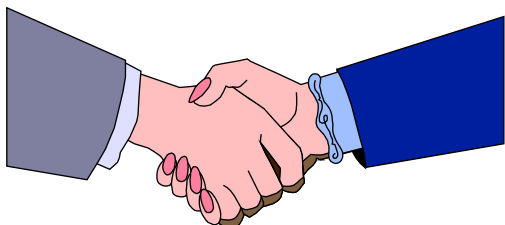
On Holocaust Remembrance Day – Yom Hashoah – May 1, Shoshona Averbach gave an interactive talk on the tragedy that engulfed Europe, encouraging those who wanted to share their own experiences in the Holocaust to speak. She also played her guitar and sang appropriate songs for the occasion. The program concluded with a stirring lighting of candles by guests in memory of those who will never be forgotten.

One of the people who spoke at the program was **Meyer Neuhoff**, who also was recently interviewed by “Hamodia” about his Holocaust experiences. The following is **Mr. Neuhoff’s** own words from part two (of three installments) of the “Hamodia” article about his experiences in the Finiftichen camp:

“Someone had managed to smuggle in a pair of tefillin. Those of us who wanted to put them on would get up at 3:00 or 4:00 in the morning, stand in the corner of the room, quickly don the tefillin and say Shema, and then immediately pass them to the next person in line.”

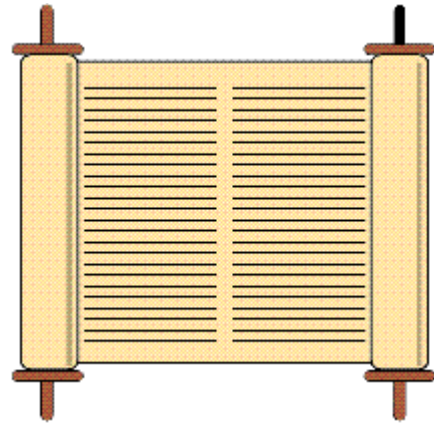
This early rising was done despite a work schedule that was extremely difficult. May we continue to be inspired by stories of incredible faith.

WARM WELCOME TO NEW GUESTS



The Ateret family is always happy to welcome new guests and we wish them a pleasant stay. Since the last newsletter, **Chilo Spiro, Sarah Fried and Sam Fried** have moved in. They, and every person at Ateret, have unique contributions to make and we wish everyone all the best.

EVER GROWING TORAH CLASSES



Ateret Avot is a center of Torah, with its minyanim three times a day in its beautiful synagogue and its wide variety of Torah classes.

Dof Yomi, two Chumash classes, a shiur on Jewish History from the Tanach, a Tehillim class, Parsha Highlights and Mishnayos learning after Mincha are weekday offerings. On Shabbos there is a Pirkei Avos shiur, another Torah talk and Torah Stories. (For a listing of the specifics of these learning opportunities, see the back page “Program Highlights section.”)

VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE -- SCINTILLATING ENTERTAINMENTS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS

A variety of musical, humorous and interactive lecture programs help to bring spice to the lives of guests on Sundays and other special dates on the calendar.

One of the many popular entertainers is Chaim Tzadok, an Israeli singer and keyboard player who has produced his own CDs and who shares a dynamic mix of Hebrew (including religious), Yiddish and English songs.

Another highly regarded performer is Ricki Penn, a singer and comedienne who has performed at the White House. At Ateret,
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VARIETY OF ENTERTAINMENTS **(Continued from previous page)**

she has people clapping their hands to her international mix of music and laughing at her heart-felt jokes and stories.

Meish Goldish is also held in high esteem at Ateret with his guitar playing and wonderful range of religious and secular songs, including his vast repertoire of Broadway hits.

Providing an upbeat patriotic spirit is Stuart Markus who not only sings popular songs of America (he's expected at this year's 4th of July barbecue), he also gives a fascinating explanation of the origin of the music.

Shoshona Averbach is a versatile singer/keyboard player who presents excellent Jewish-oriented programs along with other themed activities as well.

Ateret Home Health Aide,

Fritz Placide, gave two flute performances that had guests and staff mesmerized and thrilled with his musical skills.

At program planning meetings and in discussions with guests, Alan Magill seeks input on the who, what, why, where and when of the entertainers and program presenters that Ateret guests want. One very popular program was a musical look at the life of Molly Picon, with Diane Cypkin telling this great entertainer's life story, interspersed with the singing of a number of her songs.

There are also lecturers on a variety of topics, including those led by Professor Allen Koenigsberg who gave a recent interactive talk on "Great Political Changes in the U.S. and the World – Past and Present."

There's something for everyone and if anyone has suggestions for a another kind of entertainment or a topic to be discussed, please see Alan.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHESED

At Ateret, opportunities to be a part of interesting and enjoyable programs abound. Just as a well balanced diet has a proper mix of the food groups, a well balanced day includes thinking of others and doing acts of chesed.

Every weekday we say Tehillim for people who need to recover from an illness and people who we want to be released from captivity. Often, **Jafa Wallach** leads us in the saying of a psalm and her strong and sincere voice speaks strongly about how much she cares and how much we all care about those who need help.

When there was a massacre of members of the Fogel family in Israel, we raised money to help them. When there was a fire in the neighborhood, we raised money to help the family that had been put out of their home.

We have closely followed the plight of the three Yeshiva bochers from Bnai Brak who have been imprisoned in Japan (one has finished his term and is back home in Israel). We say prayers for Yaakov Yosef Greenwald and Yoel Zev Goldstein (Yaakov Yosef ben Raizel and Yoel Zev ben Mirel Raisa Chava), have sent letters of support and have raised money for their defense funds.

On May 16, Ateret guests were informed at a program that Yaakov Yosef's
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CHESED OPPORTUNITIES **(Continued from previous page)**

appeal had been denied. Guests were deeply affected by this, as if they personally knew this young man. Alan told them how after the verdict, Yaakov Yosef's lawyers came to him to express their sadness and were amazed at how upbeat he was, expressing gratitude for all the Torah he has learned in jail.

Even though he lost the case he said he was glad he went through the appeal process as evidence presented at his trial could help the other young man who is awaiting a verdict. Muriel Rubin, very poignantly stated, "We're taking it a lot harder than he is."

We will continue to pray for them and for all who need help. Through prayer and deed we get involved.

TULIPS TO PRAISE

Ateret guests enjoyed seeing the tulips in bloom outside the front door. The impressive array of colors were admired by people as they went outside and by people sitting in the lobby looking out at them.

With the weather getting warmer, this is a good time to go outside and enjoy the fresh air and the soothing sights on the tree-lined street.

A THANK-YOU TO OUR INTERN

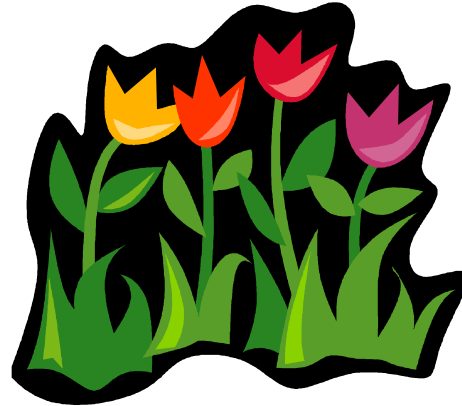
On occasion, we have an intern come to work in the recreation department as part of their college requirements. Everyone who has come here has expressed how much they enjoyed the experience and are grateful with what they have learned in connecting with people.

Our most recent intern from late-winter into Spring is Aliza Sklar and we thank her for all she's done here, including doing interviews for this newsletter. We wish her only the best in her education and career goals.

POETRY CORNER

SPRING

(A number of guests contributed to this)



Spring is warm and beautiful
Makes you feel good after a cold winter

The flowers are in bloom.
Sunny and colorful
Fresh

Birds singing
People come out and it's good to see them

Spring is a wonderful place to be
It's good to be alive

LOOKING BACK AT WHAT WE DID



The winter months were chock full of activities as heavy snowfall did not deter the guests from staying active in enjoyable and meaningful programs, including our Winter Olympics, "Dances with the Stars," food
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LOOKING BACK (Continued from previous page)

preparation and a festive Purim with two megillah lainings, a seudah, musical entertainment and many colorfully dressed visitors.

In the days leading up to Purim a number of Yeshivas came to Ateret to visit and to sing, dance, put on plays and give out hamantashen. At one of the visits, Yeshiva girls gave up center stage as Ateret guests – including **Hana Kozlowski**, **Sylvia Reiter**, **Mindy Winograd** and **Yoli Mittleman** spontaneously got up to do a line dance to music around the lobby.

Ateret guests got to eat from the fruits of their own labors when they prepared hamantashen at a food preparation group the Tuesday before Purim. Shiurim about the Yom Tov were also presented.

In our annual Purim play, **Leon Skolnik** (playing King Achaeosvarous), **Lillian Bernstein** (playing Queen Esther) and **Mendel Kozlowski** (playing Mordechai) gave a humorous and at times poignant rendition of the events in Shushan so long ago. May we continue to share the important days of our seasons with all of its richness and meaning.

MEDALS FOR SOME, BUT ALL ARE WINNERS AT WINTER OLYMPICS



Ateret's annual Winter Olympics brought out the best in guests and staff not

only as they competed in a variety of competitions but also as they rooted for each other to do well.

From the Opening ceremonies which included a reading of the Olympic cheer – complete with pom poms and noisemakers – on through all of the scheduled activities over a number of weeks, a spirit of good sportsmanship prevailed. So much of the Olympic spirit originated with the ingenuity of **Phyllis Schindler** that its successful continuation was a tribute to how she had made a difference to so many people's lives at Ateret.

Points were accumulated over the winter in such events as bowling, basketball, horseshoes, ring toss, stack the cookies, pass the potato, target toss, word games and Ateret's own version of "Dances with the Stars."

At the closing ceremonies held on March 22nd, everyone who participated – which included a large number of guests and staff – were applauded for their efforts. Medals were then given out to those who scored the highest.

Medal winners among the guests were:

- 1st Place – Muriel Rubin
- 2nd Place – Jeanette Rubin
- 3rd Place – Lillian Bernstein
- 3rd Place – Hana Kozlowski
- 3rd Place – Sandy Cohen

Medal winners among the staff were:

- 1st Place – Pierre Mortel
- 2nd Place – Fritz Placide
- 3rd Place – Richard Jackson
- 4th Place – Sherrette Anderson
- 5th Place – Kira Spektor

Everyone who participated was a winner. The Summer Olympics opening ceremonies are scheduled for June 21.

**“DANCES WITH THE STARS” –
A CHANCE TO STRUT
AND CUT THE RUG**



Anyone who walked into the Ateret Lobby on the morning of February 8 could have thought they were in a dance hall or a movie set. At 11:00 a.m, the guests and staff began to show their dance moves as part of the semi-annual “Dances with the Stars” competition (based on the television show) and the music and the elaborate dance steps didn’t finish until noon with the culminating “Limbo Rock” number.

In between, there were Hebrew, Yiddish and secular songs played and danced to by people in solo or in groups. Getting the whole program going was **Sylvia Skolnik** who danced with Badana to some Mordechai ben David music. Next, Paulette and Kira, along with other staff danced to Chubby Checker, which included doing “The Twist.”

This is just one of many examples of how guests and staff join together to make the daily life here sparkle with special moments.

Many other songs and dancers followed with a spirit of joy filling the room as people saw their peers in action. This is just one of many examples of how guests

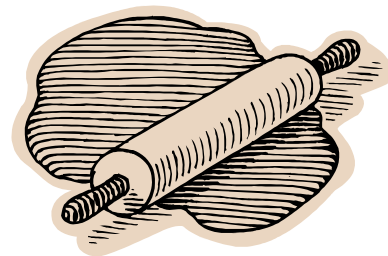
and staff join together to make the daily life here sparkle with special moments.

Once again, Miryam Netanel graciously agreed to be the judge, and while it was difficult to pick out winners among such stellar performers, the following were given flowers and a certificate attesting to their dancing victory on this day:

For the guests, the winners were **Sylvia Reiter, Muriel Rubin, Jeanette Rubin** and **Sandy Cohen**. The winners from the staff were **Sherrette Anderson, Richard Jackson, Fritz Placide** and **Kira Spektor**.

The next “**Dances with the Stars**” is scheduled for August. If you haven’t taken part yet, consider joining in the excitement.

**FOOD PREPARATION PROGRAM
– A TASTY PRELUDE TO PURIM**



A few days before Purim, Ateret guests rolled up their sleeves to make Hamantashen in a food preparation group led by Badana and aided by **Danny Kastner**, a baker by trade.

Each guest was given a piece of dough, which was rolled out and circles were made. Each circle was filled with prune filling and then shaped into Hamantashen. Next, each guest was given a round foil pan in which each of their hamantashen were placed. After the baking everyone received their own labeled pan.

Next, came the sweetest part as guests could eat the Hamantashen – the fruits of their labor -- with coffee or tea or any way they liked it. Please see Badana if you have suggestions for future food preparation programs.

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to **Jonas Kirschbaum, Jeanette Rubin**, Bathseva Singer and Aliza Sklar for their contributions in putting together this newsletter. Also, special thanks to all of the Torah speakers and other volunteers who give so much of their time and expertise.

LAUGHTER – THE BEST MEDICINE



Jokes and short plays are the order of the day at the humor and acting program on Monday afternoons at 2 p.m. in the recreation room. So if you like laughing and maybe even some acting, consider trying it. People have discovered talents that they never knew they had.

One joke: A little boy goes to his first day of school. When he comes home his mother asks, “How was school?” He replies, “Okay.” She asks, “What did you learn?” He says, “Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow.”

IN REMEMBRANCE

The Ateret Avot family sends its condolences to the families of **Abraham Gamss, Benjamin Goodnick, Helen Helfant, Yoli Mittelman, Rebbetzin Sarah Pam, Roslyn Rothblatt** and **Phyllis Schindler** on their passing. They touched the lives of the people here and they are missed. May their memories be a blessing to us all.

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 & Socializing, led by Badana Gertz, Mondays at 11:30 a.m. in the shul;

Literary Club, led by Alan Magill, Tuesday afternoons, 4:00 p.m., in the lobby;

Ateret Chevra (for men) led by Jenni Levin, social worker, at 10:15 a.m. on Mondays in the shul, and **Meeting of the Minds** (for women), also led by Jenni at 11:15 a.m. on Mondays 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 (after a winter blizzard, Rabbi Scharf gave the shiur from his home through an interactive computer video hook-up with guests in the Ateret shul);

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 (time varies; to resume after Shavuot);

Chumash class led by Rabbi Shalom Kornblum on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. in the shul;

Chumash Class with Chaim Kadin on Tuesday afternoons at 4:10 p.m. in the shul;

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

ALL THE BEST WISHES FOR JUNE AND BEYOND

At press time we were planning our “Salute to Israel” parade for June 6 which will include a march down East 10th Street and a sing-along led by guitar player and singer, Meish Goldish. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Shavuot, a good summer and all the best.

