



# Bet Israel Bulletin

## רבעון של ק"ק בית ישראל

בית הכנסת המסורתי בנתניה

March 2014

Purim 5774

פורים: אדר תשע"ד

**Pre-Purim Oneg Shabbat**  
 (communal seuda) AND Purim  
 Shpiel,  
 on Friday 15 March, following  
 Kabbalat Shabbat (5:30pm)  
 Bet Israel & BICA members 70sh

**קדם-פורים עונג שבת**  
 (סעודה קהילתית) עם פורים  
 שפיל, בליל שבת 15/3 מיד  
 לאחר קבלת שבת בשעה  
 17:30  
 לחברי הקהילה ובי.ק.ה. 70  
 ש

# פורים - קריאת המגילה

במוצ"ש 15 במרץ בשעה 18:45

## Purim - Megilla Reading

Motzei Shabbat, 15 March at 6:45pm

Followed by  
homentaschen and  
drinks

ומיד לאחראי מכן  
 שתייה חמה ואוכלי האן  
 נא לבוא בתחפושת



Sunday Morning 16 March at 8am: Purim – Shacharit and Megilla

יום ראשון 16 מרץ: פורים – שחרית עם קריאת המגילה בשעה 08:00

Bet Israel Masorti Congregation of Netanya נתניה  
 19 Yehuda Hanassi St.

P.O.Box 437, 42103 Netanya, Israel

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Tel:09-862-4345 Fax: 09-882-5210

Email: [office@betisrael.org](mailto:office@betisrael.org)

קהילת בית ישראל מסורתי

רח' יהודה הנשיא 19

ת.ד. 437 נתניה 42103

משרד: ימי א' עד ה' 08:30 עד 14:00

Website: <http://www.betisrael.org/>

*From the President's desk:*

I'm amazed how quickly time seems to go by when one is busy and having fun! My High Holiday report discussed many of the needs of our wonderful synagogue. Our main mission continues to be the following:

- 1) Increase the membership, and
- 2) Increase income while controlling costs.

Increasing our membership continues to be an elusive problem. We continue, unfortunately, to lose members due to age. ***If EVERY family who are members could bring in ONE additional member, we could increase our membership by almost fifty per-cent.*** Let's all think about people we know from the various organizations we belong to. There are so many activities going on at Bet Israel, there are sure to be some that will attract and hold your friends.

In addition to local membership, the Va'ad is actively looking at alternatives to gain new members. Although, we are not yet ready to apply our ideas, we are getting closer to action.

I apologize for not mentioning all the names of people who are actively helping as we are blessed with so many! I will, however, mention some projects which are already well on their way.

- 1) A very attractive pamphlet that was prepared by the French speakers about Netanya has been translated by Lucy Tobias into English and soon will be ready to distribute in the United States. The object is to bring more tourism to Netanya and Bet Israel.
- 2) Batya Fonda, aided and abetted by Alan and Marsha Stein, has worked to recreate a professional website. Biographies of some of our members are on the site and there are more to come. Recipes and other ideas are also being added, so if you have good ones, contact Batya. Please visit the website, it is constantly developing.
- 3) A one page flyer was developed by Alan and Marsha Stein, one side in Hebrew, and the other in English. It describes who we are as a congregation. The flyers are found next to the Shabbat Shalom Flyer and at the desk when concerts occur. A translation onto Russian is being worked on. Make sure that all visitors take one away with them.
- 4) On the website there is a link to donations which shows our tree of life and how to make contributions in US Dollars through *KBY Congregations Together*. KBY has already given us almost \$150.00 in grants, apart from donations which have been transferred to us. Many of our overseas and local members have used the site. Tell your friends in the states to look at the link. Remember: KBY is a fully tax-accredited charity in the US, and they send the entire donation on to us, not withholding anything. So please make use of their kind offices.
- 5) Morrie Kaporovsky and Rabbi Birnbaum, with the generous help of Morrie's Canadian benefactors, have – with the use of electronic rollers and other magic – allowed us to (temporarily) transform our sanctuary into the Bet Israel Concert Hall. We have already had several wonderful concerts, with more planned. On March 8 is a "Gershwin & Broadway" program and on March 23, Harvey Bordowitz, through AACI, will give a concert. Morrie's Canadian benefactors have allowed us to transform our sanctuary into a concert hall with backdrops.
- 6) BICA has redone our former garden that is beautiful. This was also financially assisted by the Canadian Group.
- 7) Rabbi Birnbaum gave a lecture concerning the authors of the Balfour Declaration. All enjoyed it.
- 8) I was involved with my former synagogue's "World Wide (*tephillin*) Wrap" on February 2 via Skype. They will continue to get involved with us in many ways.
- 9) If you have a relationship with a synagogue in North America or other English-speaking countries and wish to help us get more involved with our overseas shuls, let me know.
- 10) There is going to be a Purim *Spiel* at our Kabbalat Shabbat dinner on Friday, March 14. Many of our members have volunteered to do a non-instrumental take off on "My Fair Lady" adapted to the story of Purim, i.e. "My Fair Esti". Do not miss it.
- 11) We have been fortunate to have many sponsored Shabbat Kiddushim recently. Thank you to all sponsors and kitchen *mavens*. Anyone with a simcha, please sponsor a Kiddush.

- 12) Our "Torah Nuts" continue to manage a morning *minyán* almost every day.
- 13) Our Shabbat morning services are professionally done whether with the incredible assistance of Mike Garmise and Mordechai Kowalsky, or by our very own lay people.
- 14) Mike Garmise has allowed us to put in some of his Dvar Torah presentations on our website.

I am afraid I have forgotten so many activities, such as Lenore Levin's regular twice-weekly classes. And there are probably more that have slipped my mind, so please forgive me.

- Have we solved our two main issues? No!
- Are we working on them? Absolutely!
- Is there interest in a series of lectures by Rabbi Birnbaum? I already know the answer to that question!
- Are individuals interested in a conversational Hebrew class and/or a class on learning the Shabbat liturgy? Do please let me know if you are one of these.
- Could we offer Bar/Bat Mitzvahs to those adults who have not had one? Are you in this bracket?
- What about our Russian-speaking adults?

We're working on all these, and more, so keep tuning in. And remember: our website – [www.betisrael.org](http://www.betisrael.org) – is **always** right up-to-the-minute.

*Chag Sameyach!*  
Howie Goodman, President



### **B.I.C.A.**

Despite all the rumblings and rowing going on in our neck of the woods – the wild and woolly east! – we in Israel are independent and must continue to be self reliant. Modern Hamans we have, in plenty, both near and far and they want to succeed where long-ago-Haman failed. We need to remember that we are in an infinitely better situation today, than in Haman's day. We are in our own beloved country, a sovereign nation, beholden to no-one. And, with a strong army, and with the help of God, we will go from strength to strength.

I would like to say "thank you" to all who took over for me while I was incapacitated. You did a bang-up job and I came back to find everything jumping, as it should be. A special vote of thanks goes out to Suzanne Goodman, who regularly keeps our finances in apple-pie order, and to those who kept the minutes up-to-date while Ida Plaut, our very special recording-secretary, was recuperating.

We're looking forward now to our special **Pre-Purim Oneg Shabbat** (communal *seudah*) which will follow the Kabbalat Shabbat Friday evening service on **14 March** (the service starts at 5:30pm). Once again the dinner will be catered, by popular request, by Head Chef. We have a special treat: Our talented troupe will perform a **Purim shpiel**: "My Fair Esti", adapted by Jeff Green (from the original by Lerner & Loewe). Places are limited, so book early! Reservation and payment (70sh for members) deadline: Monday 10 March.

Remember, great new activities by BICA are coming up all the time, so please keep your eye on the Bet Israel website; [www.betisrael.org](http://www.betisrael.org)

*Chag Purim same'ach,*  
Helen Brawer

# Who Needs a Synagogue Website?

I'm a pretty regular shul-goer, but on the one Shabbat I decided to play hooky, I was later informed that I had missed Millie's *cholent* and a particularly good *Dvar Torah* by Mike. The *cholent*, together with its delicious aroma was, unfortunately, completely gobbled up! But, thanks to our website, I was at least able to read the *Dvar Torah* at my leisure (and resolve to try not to miss any more in the future!)

So, websites are handy for virtual shul attendance. But, what else are they actually good for? Didn't we manage quite well without them in the past?

Well, firstly, they save paper! If everyone – or at least the 90% of the congregation who use the internet – would look up the website for service times and announcements, think of all the trees that would still be growing happily! And just before you scoff at this, remember that saving trees is a good Jewish value. In fact, so aware are we of the virtues of trees that we planted our own last *Tu Bish'vat* [[Special Events](#)].

Besides being listed on the front English and Hebrew pages, events may also be found in our [Calendar](#). This may seem quite unremarkable! However, as we grow a little older (as we inevitably do), our short-term memories become a little shorter, so it's quite helpful not only to be able to look up events in the near future, but to be able to look back in order to remember things we did in the recent past!

Our website tells us stories of our congregants. You may think that, after 30 years or so, you know Rabbi Ervin and Hadassa Birnbaum quite well. But do you know how many books Ervin has written and how many organizations Hadassa has volunteered for? Have you read about how Miriam Liftsher survived Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, or how Sid Itzkovits survived the war as a partisan? Which tip for a long life did Bertha Fineberg, z"l, tell the JP interviewer on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday? What clinched the Goodmans' decision to make Aliyah? In fact, we've only just begun to write down people's life-stories, and welcome your own contributions. [[Our congregation](#)]

Our building is graced with some beautiful works of art. Do you know who created the Tree of Life, and are you familiar with the artistic philosophy underlying the intricate wood carvings – including the *Chanukiyah* – by David Lazarus, z"l? [[Our synagogue](#)].

Bet Israel is far from an isolated community. It is a vital member of the Masorti movement, news of which is linked from our site, and is closely connected to Shearim, Netanya's Russian outreach program. Are you aware of how our community is connected with the Tushiyya School for children with special needs, or with the TAL elementary school? [[Associated communities](#)].

To end this article, here's a little quiz. Whoever answers all six questions correctly can win each of the following prizes:

- \* A free subscription to the Bet Israel website!
- \* Free entry to Freda's Shoppe!
- \* Head start on the rush upstairs for Millie's *cholent*!

1. Who submitted the delicious *Hamantashen* recipe in the BICA cookbook?
2. What's the name of the music sung by the Russian choir at one of our recent concerts?
- 3a. How many *Divrei Torah* has Mike submitted so far? 3b. Which one do you think you might like to read some day? 3c. Who else's *Divrei Torah* are recorded on the website?
- 4a. At the bottom of which page is there a visitor counter? 4b. How many visitors has the Website had this month?
5. How many of the seven *Purimshpiel* singers (on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March) do you think are actually going to sing in tune? (You'll have to come to the Purim Oneg Shabbat to find the answer to that question). [[Home](#)]

Last but not least: who do you think wrote this article and would love to receive your feedback? Clue: her email address is: [batyabev@gmail.com](mailto:batyabev@gmail.com)

Happy Purim, everyone!! (And save some trees!)

**DONATIONS: GENERAL FUND**

Manya Averbach	In honor of Congregation Bet Israel
Edith Garfinkle	Sidney & Bella Itzkowitz 58 <sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary
Edith Garfinkle	Sidney Itzkowitz's 87 <sup>th</sup> birthday
Yelena Gubti	In memory of my father
Sidney & Bella Itzkowitz	Millie & Morrie Kaporovsky, mazal tov on brit of Lavi Eitan
Claudja Khenkin	For my family's good health
Brian & Bernadine Nathan	Lehitraot, till next visit, and bless you all.
Russian Group Donation	In honor of Congregation Bet Israel
Charles H. Sandler	In honor of Morrie & Lenore Levin's 58 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary
Freda Sacharen	Sidney & Bella Itzkowitz 58 <sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary
Freda Sacharen	Sidney Itzkowitz's 87 <sup>th</sup> birthday

**Yahrzeit**

Lyubov Agranat	Father, Shimon ben Avraham
Jackie Altman	Father, Shmuel
Suzanne Kahn	Father, Joseph Kirschner
Claudja Khenkin	Husband, Jan
Moshe Koolik	Mother, Rose
Marilyn Koolik	Nathan Gold
Rachel Krupnik	Mother, Genya
Dr. Lydia Lerner	Dr David Segal
Alan Stein	Father, Solomon

**Aliyot**

Mel & Shiphra Davis	Avraham ben Ephraim
Sidney & Bella Itzkowitz	Esther Cohen

**Herring Fund**

Alan & Marsha Stein	Sidney & Bella Itzkowitz
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**Special B.I.C.A. Donation to Bet Israel**

**Russian-speaking Congregants Group Donation**

**K.B.Y. – Congregations Together Inc. donation to Bet Israel**

Beit Oleh America Netanya AACI presents:

## *When Words Become Music*



*"Song is the magical moment when music carries us beyond what mere words can express"*



**A Lecture/Concert  
With Harvey Bordowitz  
& Bracha Kol**

**At Bet Israel Concert Hall, 19 Yehuda Hanassi St., Netanya  
SUNDAY 23 MARCH at 7:30 pm**

Tickets: Pre-booked NIS 90 At the door: NIS 100

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with concert-pianist  
**Victor Stanislavsky**

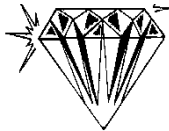
*In this Concert/Lecture, in addition to Harvey's lecture-presentation, we will be treated to a live performance: Bracha Kol, one of Israel's leading mezzo-sopranos, will be performing ravishing songs by Schubert, Mahler, Gershwin, Rodgers & Hammerstein and more...*

*Join us for those thrilling moments,  
When Words ~  
Become Music*

# YEFFET YOSSI

## Jewelry, Goldsmith, Repairs

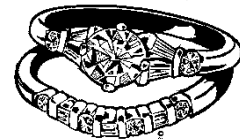
**We buy all old  
Jewelry, including  
gold and  
diamonds**



**Stone settings for  
all sizes**

**Gold Jewelry**

**We modernize and  
remodel jewelry  
with new settings.**



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