

MINYAN MONTHLY

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Nisan 5751

PESAH AND THE EXISTENCE OF G-D

--Michal Rogson

In the Kuzari, Rabbi Yehudah Halevi discusses why we should believe in G-d. The Kuzari is a book of philosophy based upon the historical tale of conversion of the King of the Kuzarim, and all of his people, to Judaism. The King invited representatives of many different religions to answer his questions, in order that he may choose the religion that seemed most correct. He asked the Rabbi he had invited, in what G-d he believed. The Rabbi answered that he believed in the G-d of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who redeemed the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. The King was somewhat confused. He asked the Rabbi why he had given that answer, rather than stating his belief in the G-d that created the universe, etc. The Rabbi replied that belief in a G-d that created the universe is a rather ambiguous answer. He wasn't there to witness that creation. Neither were his ancestors. For if belief in G-d is based mainly upon His creation of the universe, how could a person prove that his G-d created the world, as

opposed to the G-d of any other religion?

The Rabbi then gave an example to explain his point. He asked that King whether, knowing that the Turkish people are kind and generous, and hearing of the charitableness of the Turkish King, would he then sing the King's praises based upon hearsay alone? No. But what if the Turkish King sends remedies to aid in domestic and foreign affairs? If he went out of his way to succor the Kuzari King in time of need? Then would the King believe in the kindness and charitableness of the Turkish King? Yes. And this lends credence to the other good things that have been told concerning him.

This, too, is the basis of the Rabbi's belief in G-d. Based upon actions directly related to, and experienced by, his ancestors, he can believe not only in G-d's existence and support, but in the fact that G-d created the world, etc. Thus on Pesach, we not only celebrate our journey from freedom to slavery, we celebrate part of a fundamental Jewish belief. We are celebrating one of our reasons for believing in G-d, and that is something to inspire us throughout the year.

CHILD CARE CHATTER

--Judy Massarano

Thanks to all of our adult volunteers and babysitters during the past months. Keep it up! As we toddle towards Pesah, here are some reminders suggested to me by friends who utilize Library Minyan childcare...

VOLUNTEERS:

1. If you need to cancel, please contact Judy Massarano, Rachel Siegel, or Mark Bodenstein as soon as possible so we can make other arrangements.
2. Please introduce yourselves to the babysitters so they know you're the designated volunteer.
3. Inform and supervise older children so that they do not run noisily through the halls or in and out of Cafe Keshet in a disruptive manner.

PARENTS: Please make every effort to let sick children recuperate at home.

CHILDREN: The "baby room" is just that--for infants and toddlers. (To protect little hands and feet and to provide a safe place for crawling, etc., we ask that older children stay in the yard or in the room designated for them.)

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO THINK ABOUT BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE CHILDCARE COMMITTEE. THE TASKS INVOLVED ARE EASY AND GREATLY APPRECIATED! FOR INFORMATION CONTACT JUDY MASSARANO, RACHEL SIEGEL, OR MARK BODENSTEIN. HAPPY PESAH!

NOTES FROM YOUR TORAH GABAI'IM

--Norman Saiger

--Evan Greenspan

On Festivals (that do not fall on Shabbat) there is an Ashkenazi tradition approximately two hundred years old that we follow in our congregation during the time the Aron Kodesh is open before the Torah scroll is removed: the recitation of the Thirteen Attributes of G-d's Mercy (Hashem, Hashem, El Rachum V'chanum...). The custom is to repeat this line of the Attributes three times.

The following is a teaching on this custom from the Hertz Authorized Daily Prayerbook:

"It is the primary task of true religion to convey a pure and lofty conception of the Deity to the soul of the worshipper. Nothing can be more lofty than the revelation of the nature of G-d in these Thirteen Attributes. Disregarding speculative or mystical aspects of the G-d idea, they refer exclusively to the inexhaustible Love and eternal Justice of G-d. They have stamped themselves upon the Jewish consciousness as the sublimest expression in human language of the essential nature of G-d. So sacred does Judaism deem them, that they are not recited by the individual when saying his prayers by himself, but only in congregational worship on a day when the Scroll of the Torah is taken out, or on Fast days, and especially in the Neilah Service on the Day of Atonement. A superior potency was ascribed to them in such supplications, and no repetition of them - it came to be held - would be without effect. However, great teachers did not fail to point out that only if one acts in accordance with these Divine qualities of mercy, lovingkindness and truth, and imitates them in his conduct, will G-d forgive all sins. In their

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UPDATE ON THE ORLOVSKAYA/ZVEREZ
FAMILY

--Miriam Prum Hess

The Library Minyan's project to sponsor a Soviet Jewish Family is well underway. A committee comprised of 18 people held its first meeting. More help is needed from everyone.

Roman and Lyudmilla's desire to leave anti-semitism and the oppressive regime of the Soviet Union is a little closer. They have already received refugee status from the United States Government and our letter of invitation was sent by Sharon Grob. Now, they are only awaiting travel arrangements. We hope that they will be able to join us in Los Angeles within several months.

More contributions are needed.

To date \$2,600 has been raised towards our minimum goal of \$5,000. If you have not already done so, please mail your contribution to:

Norm Green
1172 Hi Point Street
Los Angeles, CA 90035

We are recommending a contribution of between \$25 and \$100 per family in order to reach our goal.

Furniture and household items needed

The family will be coming with only two suitcases per person, therefore, furniture, household items (dishes, silverware, glasses, linens, etc.) and small appliances will be needed. Norm and Irene Saiger have been generous enough to provide a limited amount of storage space. If you are able to assist by donating items, providing additional storage space, or have a vehicle that can be used for transporting furniture, please contact Donna Sudarsky at (213) 657-3167.

Shortly before the family arrives, we will need to rent an apartment. If you have contacts with anyone in the area that might

be able to provide the apartment free of charge or at a discounted rate, please contact Miriam Prum Hess at work (213) 653-8410 or home (213) 839-5574.

--Gabai'im continued from page 2
awesome solemnity, infinite tenderness, and tremendous affirmation of the Mercy of G-d, the Attributes are of fundamental importance to all who aim to live the life of religion."

On Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot, this prayer is followed by a silent supplication for personal welfare (except, again, when a Festival falls on the Shabbat). The supplication should be said silently, and the Shaliach Tsibbur should allow sufficient time for this before concluding with the line from Psalm 69 Verse 14 "V'ani t'filati..." also repeated three times.

Hag Sameach!

JOSEPH SPEYER BAR MITZVAH

Jason and Barbara Speyer invite you to the Bar Mitzvah of their son Joseph at the Library Minyan
Saturday, April 13, 1991
Kiddush to follow

DUPLEX TO SHARE

Roommate sought for lovely, spacious upper Spanish duplex in Pico-Robertson area, walking distance to Minyan. Prefer a non-smoker who keeps kosher. Please call Robin (213) 652-2261.

MINYAN COMMITTEES/RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair, Steering Committee	
Robert Braun	838-4272
Minyan Treasurer	
Norm Green	938-8110
Reading Torah or Haftorah	
Lida Baker	934-3663
Gabai'im-Shabbat/Holiday Services	
Torah Honors	
Michael Beals	657-5172
Alan Broidy	933-8894
Sharon Kushner	
Dan Wolpe	
Drashot:	
Julia Arango	276-5083
Torah Gabai'im	
Norman Saiger	837-5927
Evan Greenspan	818-760-0774
Ark Opening	
Carl Danielsen	655-9850
Child Care	
Mark Bodenstein	937-7443
Rachel Siegel	473-2029
Judy Massarano	551-0162
Kiddush	
Elka Tenner	932-0688
Sharon Kushner	
Robin Moss	
Laurie Wallock	
Membership	
Michael Rogson	939-5124
Mailing List	
Eddie Rabin	286-9567
Minyan Guide	
Carl Sunshine	934-7889
Minyan Monthly	
Susan Grinel	395-2572
Ritual Committee	
Stan Goldstein	813-8100
Scheduling Events-Master Calendar	
Lida Baker	934-3663

**DON'T FORGET WE'RE STILL COLLECTING
CANNED AND PACKAGED FOODS FOR
SOVA
BRING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS SOON!**

TREASURER'S COLUMN

--Norman H. Green

Thank you to all of the following people whose contributions to the Minyan fund for sponsoring Lyudmilla Orlovskaya and Roman Zverev have not yet been acknowledged here:

Lida Baker & Paul Nisenbaum
Ira & Grace Grossman
Shelly & Hanan Alexander
The Sorokin Family
Isabel E. Arshawsky
Aron A. & Michelle K. Wolf

Also, Mitchell and Phyllis Miller made an additional donation in memory of Samuel Arshawsky, beloved husband of Isabel Arshawsky.

As of March 15, this fund has received \$2,571; so we have passed the half-way mark to \$5,000.

The Minyan made a contribution to the University of Judaism in honor of our founding member Rabbi Elliot Dorff, who will be presented by the University with its Award of Merit on Sunday, April 14, at a tribute dinner at the synagogue.

The Minyan's general fund now stands at \$2,207.20 (as of March 15, 1991).

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 1991

7:00 P.M.

Meeting to be held at the home of Robert and Sandra Braun

(213) 838-4272

Issues for Discussion:

- Construction of New Building Impact on Minyan activities
 - Election of representative to Temple Executive Board
 - High Holiday Policies
 - Follow-up on Minyan Historical Project
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