Putting Technology to Use

Welcome to the 4th issue of the Bialystoker Brief. We hope you are enjoying our new shul publication as much as we enjoy bringing it to you. We are proud to have a good web site www.bialystoker.org and it is an always available source of information such as schedule of minyanim, classes and special events. Now, to improve our direct communication with you, we are establishing a system to communicate by e-mail for those who prefer e-mail communications. If you will give us your e-mail address, we will include it in our system. Simply e-mail us at brief@bialystoker.org. And please let us know if we can dispense with "snail mail" which would help us save the substantial cost of printing, stuffing, and mailing since e-mail is free. Providing your e-mail address to the Bialystoker will help us send you information and events when it happens. Of course, if you don’t have e-mail, or don’t want us to send you things by e-mail, we will mail everything to you, same as always.

P.S. We will not share your e-mail list with anyone! It’s just for us to communicate more efficiently with you.

RABBI’S MESSAGE

It’s a standard line for response cards to weddings: “An occasion becomes a simcha when it’s shared with friends.”

What’s true of a personal simcha is true of a national celebration. One of the distinguishing characteristics of Simchas Torah is its atmosphere of inclusion. Every adult male is called to the Torah. Even the children have their chance to participate in an aliya. Every man carries a Sefer Torah. Every man dances in a circle around the Torah.

This stress on equal participation stems from the very name of the holiday. The way to make a simcha for Torah, to truly rejoice in our heritage, is to include as many people in that celebration as possible. “An occasion becomes a simcha when it’s shared with friends.”

Even after the singing of Simchas Torah has faded away, the lesson of how to make a simcha for Torah is relevant all year long.

Torah is ours to learn, to keep, to cherish—and to share. The ultimate expression of our joy in being the bearers of Torah is to include as many people as possible in our celebration.

A large part of our mandate as a Shul community is to share our Torah. To that end, we have launched several ambitious programs to enable as many people as possible to join us in celebrating the Torah.

Our beginners’ services on Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur offered a High Holiday experience in an intimate and friendly learning atmosphere. Thank you to the Hon. Martin Shulman, for so ably running the services, and to the National Jewish Outreach Program, with whom the program was affiliated.

(continued on page 2)

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

It is a always pleasure to see so many of our members enjoying our shul, experiencing spiritual growth and being a part of the continuing development of our landmark institution, a blend of the historical and the contemporary on the Lower East Side.

Among the exciting challenges we look forward to meeting in 5765 is our first Dinner in 15 years, to be held at the Sheraton on December 5, 2004. At the Dinner we will celebrate our 125th anniversary of service to the Lower East Side, formally install our beloved Rabbi, Rabbi Zvi Romm, and pay tribute to the Hon. Sheldon Silver, Speaker of the Assembly, a true friend, neighbor and tireless public servant.

The Dinner is truly a wonderful opportunity to join and celebrate such a momentous event and pay homage to truly dedicated people who give so much of themselves to us every day.

Thanks must be given to those who give their tireless efforts and who have not stopped working on making this dinner a success: the entire committee have spearheaded this initiative for the shul and we thank them for it.

We hope you will be with us as we celebrate all we have accomplished together and dedicate ourselves to all that our shul can become.

This year promises to be very exciting for us. In addition to the Dinner, there is so much vibrancy in the shul.

The Rabbi is restarting his shiurim (classes), which were so well attended last year: Monday nights for women; Wednesday nights for men; Sunday morning for men and women.

We have a great lecture series: secular holiday series, Rabbi Yitzchok Lichtenstein, Yom Yerushalayim lecture, Rabbi Dovid Goldwasser, Jewish History course…

(continued on page 2)
Rabbi’s Message
(continued from page 1)

Our Downtown School for Judaism, with the incredible talent of Morah Esther Price, has gotten off to a great start, enabling public school kindergarten kids to taste the sweetness of our Jewish heritage. Few things are as satisfying as watching the faces of young children light up with the excitement of discovery, especially in Torah.

The challenge all of us face is to be as welcoming as possible to all who step over the threshold of our miniature Sanctuary. Let us give them a “Shalom Aleichem” (after davening); let us show them the page and offer them a tallis; let us invite them for a Shabbos meal and shower them with friendship.

Let us rejoice together in the simcha of Torah. Because it’s true: An occasion becomes a simcha when it’s shared with friends.

Rabbi Romm can be contacted at 212-475-0165; e-mail: rav@bialystoker.org; home 212-539-1220.

WANTED—A FEW GOOD MENSCHEN

Baruch Hashem, the Bialystoker Synagogue is growing. We are reaching out to unaffiliated Jews in our community, building a solid financial foundation, and striving to improve services to all our members. We need your help, as volunteers, to make these initiatives succeed.

Volunteers of all ages, retirees, homemakers, students, and others, are needed to work in the office, post flyers, set up kiddushim, make phone calls, set out refreshments for our lectures and Friday Night Onegs, and other activities. No one needs to contribute more than a few hours per month. Our need is especially pressing RIGHT NOW, as we prepare for the Shul Dinner this December. It is a great mitzvah to participate in building up the Shul. Please call Aviva or Annie in the Bialystoker Synagogue office at (212) 475-0165 and let us know which activity interests you. Your contribution of time and energy will be greatly appreciated.

Honorable mention and thanks to our most recent volunteers for a Synagogue mailing: Ms. Avigail Frydman, Mr. Bernard Gevertzman, Mrs. Helene Greenfield, Mrs. Ruth Krinsky, Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim Krumholtz, Ms. Minna Landy, Ari, Dovid, and Ezra Mermelstein, Dr. Alvin Mund, Ms. Susan Myers, Rev. Judah Pattashnick, and Mr. Joseph Zweigbaum.

President’s Remarks
(continued from page 1)

Youth Committee chair Malki Cohen has created some amazing programs for kids: youth groups and programs that included a Havdalah event at the Rabbi’s home, pre-Pesach fun-day (for the kids to make fun projects, have fun, and most of all, stay out of Mom and Dad’s way right before Pesach), trips to Minor League Baseball games; pre-Simchas Torah ice cream party; and on Shabbos we have youth programs, davening, games, book-reading and, of course, nosh.

Other recent Bialystoker events include Shabbos luncheons, Succos meals, and a Simchas Bais Shoavah.

We also had our first non-election general membership meetings in many years, where members were able to hear what is going on, as well as share their ideas.

More events are planned: new and more singles events; Friday night onegs, Lower East Side Shabbatonim, including one devoted to encouraging people to move into the neighborhood; learning and mishmor programs.

We are striving to improve the physical structure of the shul so it would be truly beautiful and comfortable for our members. Projects include replacing nearly 40 stained glass windows, improve the air conditioner system and having a permanent women’s section on the main floor for members who have difficulty walking upstairs.

Most of our members have renewed their dues for 2004. If you have not done so, there is still time. Dues are only $100 a year. For this you are eligible for a wide array of services including several minyanim daily and our gorgeous main sanctuary on Shabbos, holidays and other occasions; many activities; and the satisfaction of knowing you are doing your share. Simply send your check to the shul office today.

I would like to thank our energetic Board. We are also blessed to have Rabbi Romm, who filled the void left by our beloved Rabbi Yitzchok Aharon Singer, zt’l. Rabbi Romm is beloved by all, and helps inspire us to become better people.

And we cannot forget you, our dear members of the shul, who make everything we accomplish possible and inspire us to do our best. Thank you all who make everything we accomplish possible.

With your help we can make Bialystoker Synagogue—the cornerstone of our community—reach higher and higher goals—from strength to strength.

If there is a project you want to get involved with let us know.

And of course Rabbi Romm, Sheldon Silver, the Board and I look forward to personally greeting you on December 5 at the 125th Anniversary Dinner.

May Hashem grant us, our community and loved ones a year of peace, health, happiness and much success.

Yankie Goldman can be contacted at 212.388.1115 x100; e-mail: jacob@loherealty.com.
MAZEL TOVS

Births
• Mazel tov to Avram Chaim and Aliza Malek on the birth of their daughter, Chani. Mazel tov to the grandparents Heshy and Esther Jacob, the aunts and uncles Shami & Leah Jacob and Dovie and Malkie Jacob
• Mazel tov to Avi & Chana Zomberg on the birth of their son, Netanel Eitan
• Mazel tov to Dovid & Faygie Meisels on the birth of a son, Yoni. Mazel tov to the great-grandmother Eva Greher, to the aunts and uncles Lenny & Shaindy Greher, Chaim Mayer & Aliza Mermelstein
• Mazel tov to Barry & Sheila Rubinfeld on the birth of a granddaughter, Chaya Mushka
• Mazel tov to Meir & Rimona Hornung on the birth of their daughter, Leah
• Mazel tov to Rebbitzin Bluma Singer on the birth of twin great granddaughters. Mazel tov to the aunts and uncles Baruch & Susie Singer, Yossie & Suri Singer, and uncle Sruli Singer
• Mazel tov to Avroham & Malka Martin on the birth of their daughter, Leba. Mazel tov to the grandfather Howard Martin, and to aunt & uncle, Yaakov & Channala Martin.
• Mazel tov to Hon. Sheldon & Rosa Silver on the birth of a granddaughter, Fruma Sara. Mazel tov to the great grandmother, Bertha Mandelkern and to the aunts and uncles, Eddie & Allison Silver & Ben & Esti Fried.
• Mazel tov to Yaakov & Channala Martin on the birth of a daughter, Henya Miriam. Mazel tov to the grandfather, Howard Martin, and to the aunts and uncles Avroham & Malka Martin, Yitzchok Yoetz & Mindy Benjamin. And to the extended Rosenbaum family
• Mazel Tov to Hon. Shlomo & Suri Haglaer on the birth of a son. Mazel tov to the extended Hagler family. May the bris be bizmano

Engagements
• Mazel to Aaron and Miriam Katz on the engagement of their son, Chaim Yeshaya, to Chanie Weisenfeld. Mazel tov to the grandparents Arnold & Helen Pfeffer and Nathan & Erica Katz; to the brothers and sisters, Goldie & Avrohom Sebrow, Bracha & Yedidah Doman, Chanie & Raphael Moshe; and to the extended Adams, Seidenberg, Krupnik and Keller families.

Marriages
• Mazel tov to Mel & Heidi Rosenbuch on the marriage of their son Dale to Michal Gold
• Mazel tov to Malki Gotlib on the marriage of her daughter Ellin to Eli Orlinsky
• Mazel tov to The Krasner Family on the marriage of Mindy to Yehuda Zachter
• Mazel tov to The Zachter Family on the marriage of Yehuda to Mindy Krasner

Bar Mitzvahs
• Mazel tov to David & Michelle Sitzer on the bar mitzvah of their son, Yehudah. Mazel tov to the extended Zachter family

Condolences
• Yosef Berman, Chavala Adler, Mindy Benjamin, Dovid Berman & Channala Martin on the loss of their father Nachman Berman. Also, to the extended Rosenbaum, Turkel & Schilit Families.
• Esther Arfe on the loss of her brother Seymour Bader
• Morris Faitelewicz on the loss of his mother, Rachel Faielewicz
• Hon. Sheldon Silver on the loss of his brother, Dr. Joseph Silver
• On the loss of our member Mr. David Spaeth
• Solomon (Sonny) Sauerhaft on the loss of his mother, Sylvia Sauerhaft
• The Krasner family on the loss of their husband, and father Rabbi Moshe Krasner

Do you have something to contribute to the next issue of The Bialystoker Brief? Contact us at brief@bialystoker.org or (212) 475-0165
Visit us on the web at www.bialystoker.org
Sponsorships

Shabbos Parshas Re’eh, August 14  
Shalosh Seudos: Sponsored by Allen Siegal

Shabbos Parshas Shoftim, August 21  
Kiddush: Sponsored by Allen Siegal  
Shalosh Seudos: Sponsored by Judah Pattashnick in honor of the yahrtzeit of his grandparents & uncle

Shabbos Parshas Ki Savoh, September 4th  
Shalosh Seudos: Sponsored by Rabbi Meir & Tzivie Friedman in honor of the yahrtzeit of his father Sholom Dovid

Shabbos Shabbos Shuva, September 18  
Kiddush: Sponsored by Dov & Raizel Goldman in memory of Raizel’s mother, Sara Kleyman  
Shalosh Seudos: Sponsored by Yitzchok Dawidowicz in memory of his grandfather, Harry Resnick

Second day of Succos, October 1  
Kiddush: Sponsored by Philip Rubin in memory of Shnuer Zalman Rubin A”H

Shabbos Chol Hamoed Succos, October 2  
Shalosh Seudos: Sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Rosner in honor of the yahrtzeit of his father Yehudah

Shabbos Parshas Bereishis, October 9  
Shalosh Seudos: Rabbi & Mrs. Mayer Friedman in honor of the birth of their daughter, Yael

More sponsorship information will be provided in next issue

Birthdays & Anniversaries

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to our members with special days

SEPTEMBER
Mr. & Mrs. Dovid Adams  
(Anniversary)  
Mr. Seth Bailin  
Mr. Barry Blatt  
Rabbi Moshe Bleich  
Mr. Jonathan Boyarin  
Mr. Stanley Broome  
Mr. Schmuel Elhyani  
Mr. Matthew Fried  
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Gross  
(Anniversary)  
Mr. Reuven Kaufman  
Mr. Danny Levine  
Mr. Aaron Liberman  
Mr. Eli Mermelstein  
Mr. Ben Mittman  
Mrs. Deborah Mittman  
Mr. & Mrs. Shai Mysberg  
(Anniversary)  
Mr. Aharon Romm  
Mrs. Shira Romm  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Schraub  
(Anniversary)  
Mrs. Chaya Sara Shiffman  
Mr. Nechemiah Shiffman  
Mr. Avi Zomberg

OCTOBER
Mrs. Beth Faitelewicz  
Mr. Yaakov Faitelewicz  
Mr. Abraham Fried  
Mrs. Marilyn Goldschmidt  
Mr. Marvin Grape  
Mrs. Yocheved Leiba Grape  
Mrs. Naomi Gross  
Miss Chani Hagler  
Mrs. Ilene Keller  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenny Keller  
(Anniversary)  
Mr. Kenny Keller  
Ms. Janet Mandelkern  
Mr. Yaakov Martin  
Mrs. Efrat Mysberg  
Mrs. Suri Pilchick  
Mrs. Leah Solomon

NOVEMBER
Mrs. Janice Blumenthal  
Mr. Joel Bock  
Mr. & Mrs. Yankie Goldman  
(Anniversary)  
Mr. Yehuda Hagler  
Mr. Lloyd A. Katz  
Mr. Ezra Mermelstein  
Mr. Shai Mysberg  
Mrs. Judy Rapfogel  
Mr. Chaim Rapfogel  
Mr. Jerry Reich  
Mr. Dale Rosenbach  
Mrs. Raquel Schraub  
Mr. Jonathan Siegel  
Mr. Jeffrey Meier Stein  
Mr. Steven Tannenholtz  
Mr. Itzy Weintraub

Is your birthday missing from this list, or coming up? Let us know at brief@bialystoker.org
Letters to the Editor

August 2004----5764

With a heart full of nostalgia and sentiment, I write this message.

My beloved husband, Morris J., z’l and I were both born on the Lower East Side...He, on Cherry Street and I, on Monroe Street. We both worked there, raised our children, and enjoyed our lives in a community that brought us a world of unforgettable memories. We spent 25 years on Grand Street conducting business as the “Empress Gift Shop”.

Living across from the Bialystoker Synagogue brought us into a paradise, a place where this magnificent House of Worship filled our every need. My husband, as President of the Mens Club for 25 years, with a constant flow of new members, gave him the greatest satisfaction. For a period of time, I was secretary, making time to write and answer assorted correspondence to fulfill that office. For over forty years, I have been involved in Sisterhood, and work with a group of dedicated ladies to raise funds so that our Synagogue could benefit from our efforts. Together with the Mens Club, we attended theatre parties, Israeli nightclubs, a day in the country, Monticello, Lakewood, West Orange, indoor and street bazaars, dinners for every occasion, and we succeeded in our combined efforts to raise funds. Our Synagogue was enhanced in every respect; we helped defray rising expenses, and became the talk of the religious world, with a supreme reputation, then and to this day. We knew what we had to do, and we did it, with energy and love. I would personally like to congratulate and welcome to our community, Rabbi Tzvi Romm and his family, soon to be officially installed, hopefully to be our spiritual guide for many, many years. Jacob Goldman and family, our newly elected President, his officers and committees, Jean Slamowitz, our new capable President of the Sisterhood, ably assisted by the very endearing Eva Greher, a treasure in our community. We boast of our commitment towards one goal.

I would be remiss not to mention the Hon. Sheldon Silver, a product of the Lower East Side, who devotes so much energy to our community with invaluable results, we are proud to announce.

May I offer my personal comments and special tribute to my beloved Rabbi Irving Singer, of blessed memory, who was our spiritual leader and guide for over forty years, with total commitment to our spiritual needs, with invaluable services for so many years. His presence and achievements cannot be described, and those memories will linger forever.

His wonderful wife, Rebitzin Bluma Singer, an asset to our community, who was always there to care and share in every aspect that benefited our Lower East Side, a friend to all, and a best friend to me. What a wonderful background I can look back on and glow with pride.

We expect our Synagogue to function for us, and we have tried to do our share, but there is still so much more we can do as individuals and supporters, which we will do collectively.

Let us bring our community, our continued efforts with great pride, so that our Synagogue will thrive with encouragement and offerings.

Wishing everyone, congregants, friends and neighbors, my personal and warmest wishes for a happy, healthy and joyous “L’Shana Tova” and may we merit G-D’s blessing.

Debby Press

The Bialystoker Brief welcomes letters from readers. Those selected may be shortened to fit the allotted space, and corrections made to spelling and grammar.

Events

The Bialystoker co-hosted a Kinnus Teshuva (Special lecture concerning repentance) on the afternoon of Tzom Gedalya together with the East Side Torah Center’s Kollel Bais Simcha Aharon. Both Rabbi Romm and Rabbi Chaim Packer of ESTC presented thoughts on the fast days, especially Tzom Gedalya, and their unique role in encouraging Teshuva.

We had the privilege to host a guest lecturer, Rabbi Dr. Dovid Gottlieb, a Bostoner Chassid and PhD in mathematical logic from Brandeis who is a long-time instructor in Yeshivas Ohr Somayach in Jerusalem. Rabbi Dr. Gottlieb spoke movingly about the seemingly illogical nature of Teshuva and urged the audience to “think small” and take gradual steps in the pursuit of spiritual rehabilitation.

Thanks to Rabbi Dovid Sandel for organizing the event which deeply inspired the scores who attended.

Refreshments after the program (and maariv) were sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Heshy Jacob.

Thank You

A BIG thank you to Ari Mermelstein & Aharon Tropper for their help in the Shul over their vacation time before school (also thank you Dovid & Ezra Mermelstein who helped out as well)

REMININDER

Bialystoker Synagogue’s 125th Year Anniversary Dinner paying special tribute to its spiritual leader

Rabbi Zvi Romm

and honoring

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver

December 5, 2004

for more information: call 212-475-0165, fax 212-420-8660, e-mail dinner@bialystoker.org
November Calendar

BIALYSTOKER SHUL

1st Minyan: Mon & Thurs 6:00 AM; Sun, Tue, Wed & Fri 6:15AM
2nd Minyan: Sun – Fri 7:00 AM 3rd Minyan: Sun – Fri 7:45AM 4th Minyan: Sun – Fri 8:30AM
Sunday & Legal Holidays: 5th Minyan 9:15 AM
Rosh Chodesh: 6:00, 6:45, 7:45 & 8:30 (Sunday: 6:00, 7:00, 8:00 & 9:15)
Shabbos & Yom Tov: 1st Minyan 7:00; 2nd Minyan 9:00 AM
Daf Yomi: Sun – Thurs 8:00 PM, Shabbos 1 hour before Mincha
Rabbi Romm’s Shabbos Afternoon Shiur in 39 Melachos: 1 hour before Mincha
Monday Night Women’s Shiur 8:45PM: Wednesday Night Men’s Gemorah Shiur 8:45PM
Sunday Morning Mishlei Shiur 7:45 AM: Rabbi Bandman’s Parshas Hashavua 10:00 AM

Times for Mincha, Ma’ariv & Shema are for Entire Week

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Special Notes

Sunday November 14: Rosh Chodesh Kislev: Shacharis 6:00, 7:00, 8:00 & 9:15 AM
Thursday November 25: Thanksgiving Day: Legal Holiday Shiur after 8:30 Minyan: Rabbi Dovid Goldwasser
There will be a 9:15 Minyan
THE LOWER EAST SIDE COMMUNITY

cordially invites the entire neighborhood to the
third in a series of 10 lectures dealing with
Tefila: An Exposition of its Structure and Content
to be given monthly by

Harav Yitzchok Lichtenstein
Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshiva Nesivos HaTorah, Staten Island

Tuesday, November 2 (19 Cheshvan), 9:00 PM

"Birchos Hashachar: The Morning Blessings"

to take place at
The Bialystoker Synagogue
7-11 Bialystoker Place (Willet Street)

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

This program is sponsored by all the major shuls on the Lower East Side
Bialystoker Synagogue

Legal Holiday Shuir Series

is pleased to present

RABBI DOVID GOLDWASSER

Rav of Khal Bais Yitzchak, author of Living on the Edge and other books, a popular speaker and radio personality

who will be speaking on

"Parental Persuasion
The Fine Art of Getting Kids to Listen"

Thanksgiving, Nov. 25, 2004
9:15 A.M.

Bialystoker Synagogue
7-11 Willet Street

Men and women are welcome

A light breakfast will be served
Bialystoker Synagogue
Jewish History Course

The Bialystoker Synagogue is pleased to announce a new crash course in Jewish History. In five sessions, participants will cover the basic outline of Jewish history from Biblical times to the present day.

The course will be taught by

Esther Fried

who is completing her graduate degree in Jewish History at the Bernard Revel Graduate School.

The class will meet on
Tuesday, November 23, at 8:00 PM
Tuesday, November 30, at 8:00 PM
Tuesday, December 7, at 8:00 PM
Tuesday, December 14, at 8:00 PM
Tuesday, December 21, at 8:00 PM

Potkorony Building
(adjacent to the Synagogue)
in the second-floor conference room

Attend one, a few or all sessions
Light refreshments will be served

Please call the Synagogue at 212-475-0165 for more information or visit us on the web at www.bialystoker.org

For more information about National Jewish Outreach Program events, call 1-800-44-HEBREW
By Popular Demand......

Bialystoker shul will once again have a
Homestyle Lunch
Shabbos Parshas Toldos / November 13th
Spend time with your friends and neighbors after the
Kiddush at shul
The cost will be $20 per adult,
and $10 per child under 8.

Please RSVP by November 5th if you will be joining us

We will have take-out food, there will be no
waiters, preparation, setup and cleanup will be
done by the group
(just like you might do at home)

For more information or to RSVP
please call or email
Malki Cohen at
212-473-2695
or
mdcohen2001@yahoo.com