

SHABBATON — MAY 19TH



In cooperation with Chabad of Rego Park, we have been fortunate in arranging for a very special and dynamic speaker. **Mrs. Esther Crispe**, a well known lecturer, will speak at lunch and at other times during the day on Did You Hear What I Meant to Say — The Highest Form of Torah Communication

Please make your reservations by May 16 as this will be a very special event, made possible by a generous contribution from Ms. Marjorie Perkal.

Seminar: HY is running a free grant writing seminar in the shul to form a program of proposal Grant Writing to benefit the synagogue. This is to seek funding from public and private sources for projects for youth education, social services, etc. Saturday Night May 19, 2007 from 9:00pm to 11:00pm — Rabbi Gary Moskowitz 917-9164681

HELP SUPPORT THE SYNAGOGUE YOU LOVE, JOIN OUR SPECIAL JOURNAL CLUBS!

DIAMOND CLUB

Members and friends of our congregation (non-honorees) who contribute or raise \$1000 or more in Journal ads will receive a gift at a special presentation at the dinner.

L'CHAIM CLUB

Members and friends of our congregation who contribute or raise \$500 or more in Journal ads (submitted with full payment by May 21) will receive a special bottle of wine presented at the dinner.

Both Diamond and L'Chaim fund raisers will receive a special listing in our Journal book. Please note: As in previous years, if you receive a Journal ad from a HY member, the "Journal credit" goes to the member from whom you solicited the ad.

Mazel tov and yasher koach to
Daniel Cohen

for bringing in the first two Journal ads this year!
We thank you for getting the 2007 Journal Campaign off to a great start!



Needed : Membership Dues!

Please pay your membership dues and remain a member in good standing. Help our synagogue continue its programs of education and outreach and to serve our community with dignity.

Plan to be at the Parade on Sunday! The Salute To Israel Parade, the single largest gathering in the world in support of Israel, will celebrate the 59th Anniversary of the State of Israel. Our demonstration of support for Israel is critical. Havurat Yisrael members will gather together to watch the parade on 5th Avenue between 60th and 61st streets on the west (park) side.

Havurat Women: After many years of dormancy, our women are starting a new group, called **N'Shei**, which will meet on Thursday at 6:30 pm. A Challa baking class is one of the first projects. Contribution \$ 10, Call RSVP no later than Wednesday 5:00pm .For information, call Henni Levy at 718-544-5881 or 917-742-2718

WELCOME EVERY JEW

By Rabbi David Algaze

The receiving of the Torah at Sinai is the fundamental event of the Jewish history. It is at Sinai that the nation of Israel became a reality, as the Bible says, "Today you have become a people." The belief that G-d wishes to speak to His creatures, that He wants to communicate with us is one of the most beautiful concepts in religion. However, even such a wonderful event required a special condition: that Jews are united. Only when they are united they were worthy of G-d's Revelation, only when united they could receive the Torah.

The verse says "And Israel encamped before the mountain" (Shmot 19). The Hebrew word "encamped" is in the singular when in reality Israel should have taken a plural form. Rashi comments that this was to highlight the fact that at that moment they were "as one person, with one heart." This descriptive figure of having one heart, of being united as one person is the ideal that G-d wishes the Jews to reach. Unity is not only a prerequisite for the Torah; it is also the condition for our Redemption and a permanent feature of the Jewish people. As the Rabbis say, "Kol Israel arevim ze baze" (All Jews are connected one to the other)

However, we have great disunity among us. That may be the reason the Mashiach is tarrying in coming. In our long history one of our most distinguishing characteristics was precisely the opposite. A Jew from Amsterdam could travel to India and find a synagogue where the prayers were the same, the language in the synagogue was Hebrew and where the customs and laws were identical. With the advent of modern society, however, the original unity was destroyed. Only in tragic events such as in the Holocaust or at isolated critical junctures such as the security of Israel we become united again, alas for brief times only.

To restore unity we need to remember how we started as a nation. It was when we heard G-d's Word that we were united. Today again we need to hear His Voice again and then we will be unified once more. No Jew needs to be afraid. We should welcome everyone to our communities, our schools, our homes. The unaffiliated Jew, however distant he and his family may have been, need not be intimidated. The Torah is vast and so are its requirements but no one needs to do everything at once. Step by step, slowly and with patience, the road to becoming a Jew affected by Torah can be achieved. In our weekly Torah portion there is a concept that sheds light on this process. The Kohen (priest) is given a special gift (trumah) which he can eat only in a state of purity. The law is that to restore one's purity one needs to bathe in a ritual bath at the end of the day and then bring a sacrifice for his atonement. In the Tractate Berahot the Talmud says, "and the sun will set and he is pure (to eat the trumah). The question is asked, "what about the sacrifice for the atonement which can only be offered the following morning?" And the Talmud answers, "Atonement does not preclude the eating of the truma." In this pregnant phrase, "Atonement does not preclude" one of the Hassidic rabbis, the Gerer Rebbe, says that there is a beautiful secret. One need not achieve full atonement to participate in Jewish life. Take one step at a time, do what you can and do not worry about the end of the road. There is time. In this fashion, with patience and hope we can bring Jews back one person at a time, one step at a time.