

KANE YIRBU

The Weekly Newsletter of Kane Street Synagogue



Shabbat Ki Tissa, Shabbat Para 18 Adar / 13-14 March 2009

Candle Lighting: 5:40 PM / Shabbat Ends: 6:43 PM

Torah Reading: Exodus 30:11-34:35 / Maftir: Numbers 19:1-22 Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:16-38

A Teaching from Rabbi Weintraub: Ki Tissa — Avoiding Panic

The Torah portion this week contains one of the most famous and pivotal stories in the Torah: Moses ascends Mount Sinai to receive the Torah but unexpectedly tarries. B'nai Yisrael, the Children of Israel, become frightened. They had only known visible, human leaders; first, negatively, Pharaoh, then, positively, Moses. Now the leader is gone. They pressure Aaron: "Rise up! Make for us gods that will go before us, for this man Moses who brought us up from the land of Egypt – we do not now what became of him!" (Exodus 32:1). Aaron yields to their desperation, and joins in the construction of the Golden Calf. G-d is enraged, and threatens to destroy the people.

B'nai Yisrael had just beheld the revelation at Sinai, a spiritual experience so elevated that the Midrash says that a common servant was given the vision of later, ecstatic Biblical prophets. How could they have gone from this spiritual peak, down to idol worship, in just a few weeks?

The Midrash (Exodus Rabbah 41:7) imagines that Satan, whose whole purpose is to drive people to evil, saw this crisis as an opportunity. He created an optical illusion so that "Moses appeared suspended between heaven and earth", that is, "departed", dead, and the people panicked.

When we are in a normal emotional state, we do not let events distort our vision or sway our normal judgment. When we are overwhelmed, or bewildered, it is possible to slip, even unknowingly, into despair. Then "all bets are off" and we can think catastrophically, see things as they are not, and react in ways which harm our own interests. Raba, a Fourth Century Talmudic sage, taught "People are not held responsible for what they say when in distress" (Bava Batra 16b; this also explains why torture and forced confessions are unknown in Jewish tradition).

Thus, G-d forgives B'nai Yisrael despite the largeness of their transgression. When a person or society is basically frightened, as opposed to malicious, sick, as opposed to evil, the proper response is not blame or punishment but encouragement of ways to repair behavior. In the midst of any crisis – moral, political, economic – the challenge is to hold our gut reactions in check and look for sustained and hopeful ways of turning things around, even if these require confession, patience and sacrifice. Shabbat Shalom, *Rabbi Weintraub*

Go to <http://kanestreet.org/religious-life/rabbi-weintraubs-teachings/> to read more of Rabbi Weintraub's Teachings

Schedule of Services

Kabbalat Shabbat: Friday at 6:00 PM

Shabbat Morning: Saturday at 9:30 AM / Mincha: Saturday at 1:00 PM

Shacharit: Sunday at 9:00 AM

YOUTH SERVICES

All of our Junior Congregations (Mini-Minyan for ages 2-5; Junior Congregation for grades K-3; KC Minyan for grades 4-6) take place on the Second Floor of the Goldman Education Center at 11:00 AM each Shabbat. For more information please contact vlieber@kanestreet.org.

Our Children Welcome the New Chapel Ark

We thank the Rifkin family for their generous donation of the new Aron HaKodesh/Holy Ark in the Chapel, which will be formally welcomed by our children this Shabbat morning at Youth Services. The Ark is given in loving memory of Susan's parents, Herbert and Lillian Kahan. The inscription above the Ark, from Pirke Avot 2:8 is *Marbeh Torah, Marbeh Chayim*, the more Torah, the more Life. It reminds us that the Torah is a life-enhancing gift, and the more we study and practice according to its instruction, the more well integrated, purposeful and happy our lives become.

Susan and Bill also thank Carol Levin, Laurie Lieberman, Danny Magill and Rabbis Simkha and Sam Weintraub for their help in the process of designing and bringing the new Ark to its home at Kane Street. We thank Susan and Bill for their generous co-sponsorship of Kiddish this Shabbat.

Mazal Tov — B'rucha Ha'ba'a/Welcome

The Kane Street community extends a warm Mazal Tov to Allison Day and Arthur Kuflik on the Simchat Bat, the covenantal welcome and naming ceremony of their newborn daughter. We look forward to continued growth and nachis with the Day-Kuflik family. We thank Arhur and Allison for their generous co-sponsorship of Kiddish this Shabbat.

Upcoming Kane Street Events

COMMUNITY PASSOVER FAIR — Sunday, March 22, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Enrich Your Passover Experience with Workshops For Adults and Children

- **Songs of the Seder:** Reviewing old melodies and learning new songs to add to the joy and meaning of your Seder. Packets of Seder Songs will be distributed. Joey Weisenberg, Music Enrichment Director. Offered at 10 AM, 11 AM and Noon
- **Adventure to Passover:** Art, games, stories, music, movement and teachings for children up to age 8. Moran Ben Shaul. Offered from 10 AM – Noon.
- **Recipe Swap:** Make your Pesach even tastier! Come with recipes to share. Riva Bennett. Offered 10 AM - Noon (continuous sharing)
- **Make Your Seder Come Alive:** Activities, discussion starters, rituals, readings and ideas to make your Seder lively and relevant for adults and children. Rabbi Valerie Lieber, Director of Education and Family Programs. Offered at 10 AM, 11AM, and Noon
- **How to Make your House Kosher for Passover** – Yes, we can! Danny Magill. Offered at 10 AM and 11 AM
- **New Ways to Enter the Maggid, the “discussion part” of the Seder:** Rabbi Sam Weintraub. Offered at 10 AM, 11 AM, and Noon
- *Refreshments included. Childcare available.*

KADIMA & USY SANDWICH MAKING FOR THE HOMELESS & CHAMETZ DRIVE BOXES — Sunday, March 22; 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Make bagged lunches for the homeless & create collection boxes for Chametz Drive! Location: PSJC Downstairs Chapel & Community Room. PRICE: FREE. RSVP: By March 19th

- RSVP to jesscohen.bbusy@gmail.com or through BBUSY's Facebook page.
To learn more about Brownstone Brooklyn USY/Kadima go to <http://kanestreet.org/community/teens/>

Community

KANE STREET SYNAGOGUE'S MENSCH SQUAD

The Mensch Squad is a new Kane Street initiative that organizes members of our community to support one another in times of need.

It works like this: When a member is in need of assistance, s/he contacts the Mensch Squad coordinator, who then sends a message to squad members. Request may be, for example, to provide meals, pay a visit, pick up a pharmacy order, or whatever else is required.

We are inviting all of our members to join the Mensch Squad. There is no specific commitment at this time; if you volunteer, your name will be put on a list and you will receive an email whenever the coordinator gets a request for help. If you're available and willing, you'll respond. If you are interested in being a Mensch Squad volunteer, please email Debbie Polinsky at MenschSquad@KaneStreet.org, and don't forget to include your phone numbers. If you or your family is in need of support, please contact Debbie at the email address above. If you prefer, you may first contact the rabbi at rabbi@kanestreet.org or (718) 875-1550 x103.

BROWNSTONE BROOKLYN JEWISH COMMUNITY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

UJA-Federation has brought together Brownstone Brooklyn congregations and the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services to launch an on-going bereavement support program. This program will provide Jewish holiday-related events; interactive workshops; eight-session bereavement support groups; and brief individual counseling. These services will draw upon a variety of resources, including psychology, Jewish spiritual care, and mutual support. For further information about the overall program, contact Jonathan Katz, LCSW, at (212) 399-2685, ext. 232, or jkatz@jbfcs.org

HELP GREET PEOPLE AT OUR SERVICES

To volunteer, please contact Idelle Abrams at irabrams@earthlink.net

TIKKUN OLAM / SOCIAL JUSTICE. Pick up a brochure in the back of the Synagogue or go to <http://kanestreet.org/community/social-justice/> for more information about our programs.

COMMUNITY NEWS & NOTES:

- Please celebrate with us as our son, Augustin, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah, Shabbat Hagadol, 5769; Saturday, April 4th at Kane Street Synagogue, 9:30 AM. Kiddush luncheon following services. — *Gisel and Ricky Baler*
- Mazal Tov to Hedda and David Grupper, winner of a trip to Israel in the Great Purim Raffle!

Education

KANE STREET KIDS

Kane Street's Goldman Educational Center is also home to our Preschool, Kane Street Kids. For information about Kane Street Kids, contact Director Joyce Heller, Kids@kanestreet.org or 718-875-1550.

KANE STREET HEBREW SCHOOL

The Kane Street Hebrew School is in full swing; for any questions or registration, contact Rabbi Valerie Lieber, Educational Director, vlieber@kanestreet.org or 718-875-1550.

ADULT EDUCATION

For a complete listing of our programs go to <http://kanestreet.org/education/adult-education/>

**Turning Text into Prayer: The Form and Function of the Liturgy with Rabbi Josh Gutoff —
Thursdays, March 12, 19, 26 and April 2; 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM**

Join Rabbi Joshua Gutoff for a comprehensive and enjoyable introduction to the liturgical service. Rabbi Gutoff has been writing and teaching about Jewish prayer for over twenty years, with particular concern for the development of the religious imagination. Understanding the nature and structure of public prayer will not only help you become more comfortable with Shabbat and weekday services, but will provide you with an excellent way to prepare for Pesach and all the holidays. Call the office 718-875-1550 to register.

BEN AND MARTHA FRIEDMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR TEEN AGE JEWISH PROGRAMS

The Kane Street Synagogue is now receiving applications for the Ben and Martha Friedman Scholarship, established by Drs. Mordechai and Ellen Friedman in memory of Mordechai's beloved parents. The Scholarship supports the teenage (13-18) children of members of the Kane Street Synagogue in their attempts to enrich their experiences as Jews. Children who are planning to engage in a new activity, during the coming year that contributes to the teen's knowledge of his or her Jewish heritage are invited to apply. Financial need and the applicant's involvement with Synagogue activities will also be taken into account.

The award for this year is one thousand dollars. Candidates should submit to the Synagogue, c/o Rabbi Weintraub, a 300-500 word proposal describing the activity, and how they believe it will contribute both to an increased knowledge of Judaism, and to their overall Jewish pride and identity. The deadline for submission is April 2. Any questions should be directed to Rabbi Weintraub at 718-875-1550.

About Town

MASORTI BENEFIT — March 29, 2009: 4:00 PM

Jewish Theological Seminary, 3080 Broadway at 122nd Street

Afternoon of Hayden, Smetana, and Debussy with the Simon String Quartet

Concert followed by Cocktail Reception

Cost: Tickets - \$250; Sponsor - \$2,500 (4 tickets included), Patron - \$5,000 (8 tickets included)

**DEREKH TORAH™: THE WAY OF TORAH — Wednesdays, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM beginning May 13
First Rate 92nd Y Introduction to Judaism for Adults NOW IN BROOKLYN!**

This 30-week course is designed for both Jews who seek a deeper connection with their heritage and for non-Jews who wish to have a greater understanding of Judaism. It is also appropriate for interfaith couples looking to deepen their understanding of Judaism or who plan to raise Jewish children. For non-Jewish participants, Derekh Torah™ can serve as preparation for conversion to Judaism. There is no requirement to convert. For those enrolling in Derekh Torah™ within the context of a relationship, it is recommended that both partners participate. Contact Rabbi Leana Moritt, director of Jewish Outreach at the Bronfman Center for Jewish Life, at 212.415.5767 or lmoritt@92Y.org for information or to schedule an interview. Cost: \$620 per person and \$950 couple. Payment plans and scholarship assistance available.

Contact Us

To find out all that Kane Street Synagogue has to offer, please visit our website at www.kanestreet.org.

Linda Kass-Mahler, Executive Director • office@kanestreet.org or call 718-875-1550

Samuel H. Weintraub, Rabbi • rabbi@kanestreet.org or call 718-876-1550. The Rabbi maintains "call-in hours" Tuesdays 10:15-12:15 and Wednesdays 11-1.

Jay Brodsky, President • president@kanestreet.org

Submissions to the Kane Yirbu should be emailed to Kane Yirbu editor Barbara Speregen at KaneYirbu@kanestreet.org by the Friday preceding publication.

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