

Scharf's Ateret Avot Star

Fall 2010

CHANUKAH LIGHTS ILLUMINATE OUR LIVES



(Editor's Note: At press time, Chanukah was approaching. Ateret guests were looking forward to the beautiful lights of dozens of menorahs by the window in the lobby for each night of Chanukah. A Chanukah party is planned with festive food and music and visits from Yeshiva students are scheduled.

The Ateret Avot Chorale Society, under the direction of **Phyllis Schindler**, has been rehearsing a collection of Chanukah and other Jewish songs to present to the Yeshiva students when they visit. Also, Chanukah letters of support were signed by guests, staff and family members and sent to the two yeshiva bochers in jail in Japan. At Ateret, even in the midst of our celebrations of joy, we remember those in need. A happy Chanukah to everyone and all the best.

MOVE OVER HOLLYWOOD, ON NOV. 1, ATERET HAD IT'S OWN ACADEMY AWARDS

By Phyllis Schindler

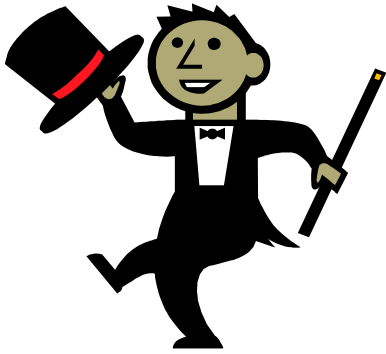
California has Hollywood. Brooklyn has Midwood. Hollywood has Grauman's Chinese Theatre. Midwood has Ateret Avot Glatt Kosher. Hollywood has famous actors and actresses. Ateret Avot has **Sylvia Skolnik** and **Fay Gritz**. Hollywood has Max Factor. Ateret Avot has Badana Gertz. Hollywood has Steven Spielberg. Ateret Avot has Alan Magill. Hollywood has the Oscars. Ateret Avot has the Ushers, and the presentation of these awards for acting and other categories was part of a gala event held at Ateret on November 1.



The ladies and gentlemen wore their holiday best. They sparkled! Starting at 10:15 a.m. the recreation room was filled with lovely ladies getting their hair combed and make-up applied by Sherrette Anderson, Wilhemina Henry and Reisa Cadet. At 11 a.m., the lobby was filled to capacity. The red carpet was rolled out.

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ACTING AWARDS (Continued from previous page)



Alan Magill acted as our master of ceremonies. He welcomed our guests, residents, members of the staff and the Scharf family. Our Usher trophies were ready. It was a true thrill to receive the first Usher (for best Actress) as I was called to walk down the red carpet. The Paparazzi was there with their cameras and an autograph hunter – Richard Jackson – had some of the celebrities sign his book.

After the distribution of all the awards (see the listing of the winners in the next article), we went to the dining room where a festive lunch was waiting. Then we went to the recreation room where Alan, in his inimitable way, encouraged our guests to act in improvisations. The day ended with everyone singing to the music of Meish Goldish. Good moods prevailed. Our staff is always so willing to participate. Everyone deserves an Usher.

AND THE WINNERS

The Ushers awards ceremony was truly a home-grown program. The concept was thought up by **Phyllis Schindler** with fine-tuning by other guests. The Usher statuettes were made by guests from soda bottles that had sequins and ribbons put on them. Voting for the awards was done by the guests. This was truly a program, “Of the people, by the people and for the people.”

The winners: Best actor - **Leon Skolnik**; Best actress – **Phyllis Schindler**; Best dramatic actress, improvisation – **Lillian Bernstein**; Best comedic actress,

improvisation – **Selma Hollander**; Best actress, dramatic scene readings – **Muriel Rubin**; Best actress, comedic scene readings – **Ruth Neinstein**; Best actress with a continuing character – **Sylvia Skolnik**; Best actress in displaying friendship - **Fay Gritz**; Best actress in showing love of Hashem – **Miriam Fastag**; Best actress in displaying love of Israel – **Hana Kozlowski**; Best actress in showing good teaching methods – **Miriam Leifer**; Most glamorous actress - **Sylvia Reiter**; Best actress for supporting the program – **Jeanette Rubin**; Best liked actress - **Sandy Cohen**; Best art design – **Badana Gertz**; Best actress, staff – **Esther Smellie**; and Best “Miss America” – **Iris Davis**. The winners offered gracious and moving acceptance speeches. Wait until next year for another chance in the spotlight.

A SIMCHAS BAIS HASHOEVA THAT SCALES THE HEIGHTS

When the Scharf’s throw a party, they do it with pizzazz. At no time was that more evident than when hundreds upon hundreds of people attended Ateret’s 12th annual Simchas Bais Hashoeva celebration held on the third day of Chol HaMoed Succos, September 27. Ateret guests, staff and the community at large were treated to an entertainment extravaganza which featured a mime, juggling and acrobatic performance by the Amazing Twins from France. On bicycles and stilts, with their heads almost touching the high ceilings, these very talented young men uplifted four generations of attendees.

“The twin acrobatics were wonderful,” said **Mindy Winograd**. My 6 ½ year old was holding a camera and taking pictures. My 4 year old was clapping his hands. It was wonderful for adults and for kids.” Added **Jeanette Rubin**, “My favorite part was seeing (them) walking on the stilts and maintaining their balance.” Noted **Esther Kurant**, “It was out of the ordinary. I never saw something like it.”

Also effusive in her praise was
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SIMCHAS BAIS HASHOEVA (Continued from previous page)

Lillian Bernstein who said, “They were very talented. They were certainly on par with the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, if not better. It was very entertaining and very enjoyable. The Scharfs really went all out. We’d like to have them again next year.” Added **Phyllis Lit**, “It was a nice show. From the time I’ve been here they were one of the most talented and popular shows. They really drew a crowd.”

Also adding luster to the event was the musical performance of Aaron Goldring and the humor of Alan Magill, which included performances by **Sylvia Skolnik**, **Leon Skolnik** and **Ruth Neinstein** of improvisations and a skit.

To conclude the program on just the right note, **Chazzan David Werdyger** sang timeless Jewish songs.

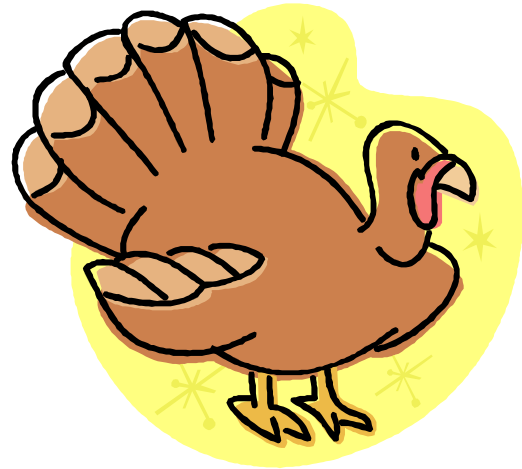
ATERET CHEVRA AND MEETING OF THE MINDS DEBUT

The new Ateret Chevra for men was inaugurated November 15. Led by Jenni Levin, the social worker, the group explores religious sources and uses them as a springboard to discuss issues of importance in the men’s lives. The Chevra is scheduled to meet at 10:15 a.m. on Mondays in the shul. All men are welcome.

The new “Meeting of the Minds” group for women, also led by Jenni, will meet on Mondays at 11:15 a.m. in the recreation room. In this program, women will have an opportunity to share their thoughts on various topics and talk about what’s on their minds.

An ongoing activity, “Program Planning,” meets on Wednesday afternoons at 4:30 p.m. in the Recreation Room. Here, guests give input on the kinds of recreation programs they would like to see.

HONORING VOLUNTEERS, A SUMPTUOUS MEAL AND A TURKEY RACE ON THANKSGIVING



A special event, which featured the honoring of volunteers and a “turkey race,” followed by a sumptuous turkey meal with all the trimmings was served up by Ateret on Thanksgiving.

The program also gave guests the opportunity to express what they are thankful for on handwritten notes which were on display in the lobby. “I am thankful for my children and for being here at Ateret Avot,” noted **Roslyn Rothblatt**. “I am thankful for everything that G-d has given me,” added **Yoli Mittleman**

“I am thankful for being able to be here...for my wonderful son and for my nephews...and for the wonderful staff and aides,” noted **Fay Gritz**. Added **Bronia Ziegler**, “I thank Hashem for a good life, for peace and for my family.”

Also, thanks were extended to the Scharf family and to all of the staff at Ateret Avot in the various departments for their positive contributions to the life of the home. “Certificates of Recognition” were given out to Ateret’s volunteers who give of their time,
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A FULFILLING THANKSGIVING (Continued from previous page)

talent and compassion to enhance the Ateret experience.

Volunteers on hand to be honored were Rabbi Shalom Kornblum, who gave a Monday night Chumash class here (expected to resume in the Spring); Rabbi Gershon Rothstein, who gave a Pirkei Avos Shabbos shiur in the Spring and Summer and now offers a Shabbos shiur on Midrash Tanchuma; Batsheva Singer, who did a college internship here in the recreation department in the earlier part of the Fall; and Esther Papier, who volunteers for the recreation department on Monday afternoons.

Certificates of Recognition were given out to Ateret's volunteers who give of their time, talent and compassion to enhance the Ateret experience.

Among the other volunteers whose efforts we appreciate are **Rabbi Meyer Lubin** for his Thursday morning shiur on Jewish History from the Tanach (11:30 a.m. in the synagogue) and his other Torah talks; Torah stories given by **Phyllis Schindler** on Friday night or late Shabbos afternoon, depending on the time of the year; a shiur on Chumash by Chaim Kadin, Torah talks by Rabbi Yosef Friedman, Rabbi Ephraim Hettleman, Rabbi Nissan Rosenthal, Rabbi Levi Spitz, Rabbi Yosef Stern, Rabbi Myron Zundell, Rabbi Reuven Zwick, Esther Alter, Rivka Dubin, Raizel Shmulewitz and Rivkie Willner, among other speakers.

Also thanks to Sol Levitt who brings his "Words and Memories" program from the Brooklyn Public Library to Ateret once a

month, and Mordechai Pattashnick for his periodic visits to play the keyboard. Ateret guests also have deep appreciation for Zlatie Katz, Faygee Nass and Faygie Eidlisz for their help in the synagogue on Shabbos.

The Thanksgiving program also featured the first ever "Turkey race," where pictures of a turkey on a stick were moved forward based on numbers called. Guests bet on which turkey would get to the finish line first and cash prizes were given out to the winners.

A comedy improvisation was performed based on a Thanksgiving legend, and **Leon Skolnik** and **Phyllis Schindler** brought laughter and applause by bringing the story to life.

The Thanksgiving lunch that followed was delicious and filling and the Ateret family atmosphere was on display as guests and staff ate together.

CHESED ACTIVITIES ABOUND

The opportunities for chesed abound at Ateret as guests look for opportunities to help others. Money was raised in the Fall to help the family that had the tragic fire in this neighborhood on Shemini Atzeres.

Each weekday Tehillim is said for those who need to recover from illness or to be released from captivity. This reading is often led by **Jafa Wallach**, whose caring and sincere voice is appropriate for the occasion.

If anyone has suggestions for a Tzedakkah fund to contribute to, please see Alan.

VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM HONORS CONTRIBUTIONS BY SOLDIERS

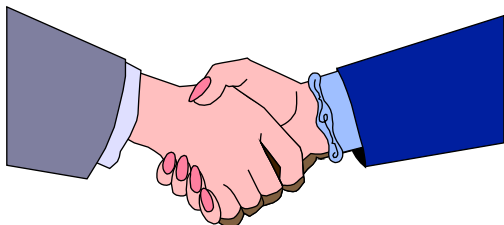
On Veteran's Day, a special program was held where Ateret veterans were honored and the history of this special day was discussed. **Leon Skolnik** talked about what

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VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM (Continued from previous page)

it meant to him to serve in the army and he described his experiences at the Battle of Iwo Jima, a hard fought and important victory for the United States in World War II.

WELCOMING NEW GUESTS



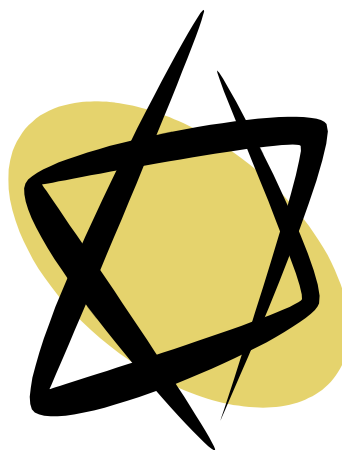
The Ateret family is enhanced when new people move in. We welcome them and wish them a pleasant stay. Since the last newsletter, **Mindy Winograd**, **Morris Finkelstein** and **Chazzan David Werdyger** have moved in. **Mrs. Winograd** has shared stories of personal courage during the Holocaust. **Mr. Finkelstein** and **Chazzan Werdyger** have led the davening and **Chazzan Werdyger** has sung for us. They and every person at Ateret have unique contributions to make and we wish everyone all the best.

LOOKING BACK AT WHAT WE DID



The following is a look back at the variety of Yom Tovim and programs that are such a major part of the fabric of life at Ateret Avot.

THOUGHTS ON ROSH HASHANA AND YOM KIPPUR



by Batsheva Singer

Rosh Hashana is always a memorable and enjoyable time at Ateret Avot. This year was especially pleasant and meaningful with the beautiful davening led by Rabbi Benjamin Guttman, Rabbi Eliezer Weichbrod and Rabbi Benzion Pitem (who all also davened on Yom Kippur).

Said **Albert Tatarka**, "The davening was very good. The Baal Tefilla davened with a crying tone. He davened so good, it was unbelievable!"

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-- Albert Tatarka

The good spirits of Yom Tov followed the guests into the dining room. Everyone was treated to a "dish of new fruits for Shehechianu," said **Phyllis Schindler**.

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ROSH HASHANA/YOM KIPPUR (Continued from previous page)

She thanked Mr. and Mrs. Scharf and the entire Ateret Avot family for “going out of their way to make Yom Tov beautiful with the real spirit of the Yom Tov.”

For Yom Kippur, **Samuel Pinsker** enjoyed the men who conducted the services. “They’ve been here several years already,” he said. “It was very nice.”

SUMMER OLYMPICS GRAND FINALE



A variety of competitions held over a number of weeks culminated with the Summer Olympics grand finale as part of the Labor Day program at Ateret Avot (which also included a barbecue). Points were accumulated over the summer in such events as bowling, basketball, horseshoes, ring toss, stack the cookies, pass the potato, target toss, word games and Ateret’s own version of “Dances with the Stars” in the semi-annual Olympic competition.

For the first time Olympic medals were given in two categories – to guests and to staff/family members. Everybody who participated was a winner as the spirit of rooting each other on and good sportsmanship prevailed.

Winners among the guests were:

- 1st Place – Muriel Rubin**
- 2nd Place – Jeanette Rubin**
- 3rd Place- Phyllis Schindler**
- 3rd Place - Hana Kozlowski**
- 3rd Place - Sylvia Skolnik**

Said **Muriel Rubin** about her victory, “I was in shock and I keep telling my grandkids that now I know what it feels like to win color war.”

Medal Winners from Staff/Family were:

- 1st Place - Katia Janvier**
- 2nd Place - Irina Rabinovich**
- 3rd Place - Winifred Quartey**
- 3rd Place - Nadege Petit**
- 3rd Place - Marilyn Horowitz**

“I was in shock and I keep telling my grandkids that now I know what it feels like to win color war.”

- Muriel Rubin (first place)

We thank **Jeanette Rubin** for once again keeping score throughout the Olympics. The opening ceremonies for the Winter Olympics is scheduled for December 21. Look for Jamie to come running in with the Olympic torch.

SCINTILLATING SUNDAY MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENTS

Sunday afternoons at Ateret Avot is a time for singers and musicians to entertain the guests with their special talents. Whether impressing with the range of their voice or the skill they bring to playing the piano, keyboard, guitar or harp, they leave Ateret with people in an uplifted mood.

Some popular performers are Shoshona Averbach, Ricki Penn and Chaim Tzadok (they all play the keyboard and sing) and Olivia Lu, who brings her ornate, tall

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MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENTS (Continued from previous page)



harp for a soothing musical performance. Over time, the guests and entertainers have gotten to know each other and this bonding has brought more luster to the shows. They genuinely like performing here.

Said Olivia Lu to Alan, after being booked for her upcoming January 9 harp performance, “Thank you for the opportunity. I love your residents. They are beautiful people.”

AUGUST SIZZLES WITH COOL ACTIVITIES

A variety of special events were scheduled for Ateret in August. First up was the **PICNIC LUNCH** on the back patio and the adjacent lobby on Tuesday, August 3, which featured the singing and guitar playing of Meish Goldish. On Wednesday, August 11, our **HAWAIIAN LUAU**, featured an Hawaiian-style dinner, South Seas music of Norman Curtic and dancing. It was truly “Some Enchanted Evening.”

On Thursday, August 26, the lobby was turned into a dance floor with our third semi-annual “**DANCES WITH THE STARS**” competition. Guests, staff and visitors displayed their dancing prowess to the accompaniment of Jewish and popular music, with everything from Mordechai ben David to Chubby Checker and the “Limbo Rock.”

The winners of the dance competition as selected by our judge Miriam Netanel, were, from the guests, **Hana Kozlowski, Sylvia Reiter, Jeanette Rubin** and **Sylvia Skolnik**. From the staff, the winners were Darryl DeLeon, Richard Jackson, Winifred Quartey and Irina Rabinowitz. Everyone was a winner who was a part of this program.

**This is another example
of guests and staff
participating together in
an enjoyable activity.**

This is another example of guests and staff participating together in an enjoyable activity. Looking forward to the next “Dances with the Stars,” planned for February.

PROMOTING GOOD HEALTH WITH EXERCISE & MOVEMENT TO MUSIC

A healthy way to begin one’s activities for the day is to take part in Gentle Stretch exercise held six mornings a week in the lobby. Often, **Sandy Cohen** plays a leadership role in this program

Another way to stay in good shape is to join the movement to music activity, usually held on Tuesday afternoons at 3:15 p.m. in the lobby. Guests follow the leader in moving around to the rhythm of the music. One of the highlights is when guests come up front and take the leadership role. Recently **Esther Kurant** led the group in moving to a song followed by **Miriam Fastag**. After **Mrs. Fastag** finished, she went around and shook the hands of a number of guests, giving each one a blessing. What a blessing to live in a home that is so aware of the importance of a person’s spiritual and physical health.

NUTRITION TALKS HAVE ALL THE RIGHT INGREDIENTS

Dr. Rick Shields, Ateret's nutritionist, gives talks on healthy eating and overall good health every six weeks at our home. He's spoken on such topics as Cholesterol, the importance of Vitamin D and the value of exercise and mind-stimulating activities. His next scheduled talk is January 4 at 1:30 p.m.

ROLLING UP THE SLEEVES AT FOOD PREPARATION GROUPS



Badana periodically leads food preparation groups that are relevant to the time of the year. **Danny Kastner**, who owned his own bakery, often takes a leadership role in these efforts. Two days before Chanukah, the recreation room was turned into a kitchen as guests rolled out the dough and made Chanukah cookies, while listening to Chanukah music.

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to **Sarah Goldberg**, **Jonas Kirschbaum**, **Jeanette Rubin** and **Phyllis Schindler** and Bathseva Singer for their contributions in putting together this newsletter. Also, special thanks to all of the Torah speakers and other volunteers who give so much of their time and expertise.

NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICE

A notary public service is offered by **Phyllis Schindler** at no charge to Ateret Avot residents and staff. Ask for her at the front desk. She welcomes inquiries.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Health Talk, led by Sheila Lendzin, Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. in the lobby;

Pictionary, led by Etele Gutnik, Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the lobby;

Yiddish Talk & Socializing, led by Badana Gertz, Mondays at 11:30 a.m. in the shul;

Literary Club, led by Alan Magill, Tuesday afternoons, 3:45 p.m., in the lobby;

Ateret Chevra (for men) led by Jenni Levin, social worker, at 10:15 a.m. on Mondays in the shul, and **Meeting of the Minds** (for women), also led by Jenni at 11:15 a.m. on Mondays in the recreation room.

Tehillim Class, led by Tzirel Rubin on Wednesdays at 4:45 p.m. in the Rec. Room;

Dof Yomi with Rabbi Chaskel Scharf, Sunday-Thursdays at 2:30 p.m. and 11:15 a.m. on Fridays in the synagogue;

Mishnayos Learning with **Rabbi Meyer Lubin** after Mincha in the synagogue; he also teaches **Jewish History from the Tanach** on Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. in the synagogue;

Midrash Tanchuma shiur given by Rabbi Gershon Rothstein on Shabbos afternoons (time varies);

Chumash Class with Chaim Kadin on Monday nights at 6:45 p.m. in the shul;

Torah talks and sing-alongs by Rabbi Benzion Pitem, who is the Shabbos and Yom Tov rabbi;

Torah Stories with **Phyllis Schindler** on Friday nights in the lobby.

IN REMEMBRANCE

The Ateret Avot family sends its condolences to the families of **Leah Lesser**, **Hyman Lifschitz** and **Frieda Oppenheimer** on their passing. They touched the lives of the people here and they are missed. May their memories be a blessing to us all.

A GOOD WINTER TO EVERYONE

Wishing everyone a good winter and all the blessings of health and happiness, now and always. Enjoy the Winter Olympics. If anyone has suggestions for other programs, please see Alan.

