

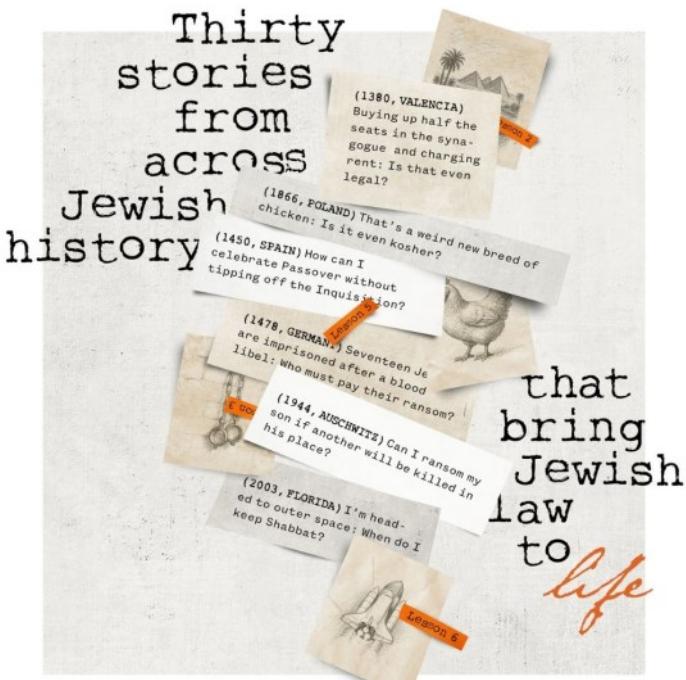
**CONGREGATION MACHANE CHODOSH**

67-29 108th St Forest Hills, NY 11375 ✪ 718-793-5656

MachaneChodosh.org

SHAVUON WEEKLY NEWS**28 Teves 5786-1/17/26****Va'eira/Mevarchim Shevat****Our 86th
Anniversary Year****Rabbi Emeritus
Manfred Gans z"l****Rabbi
Yossi Mendelson****President Emeritus
Herbert Jaffe z"l****President
Yehoshua Perl**

Please join us following services for Kiddush and Farbrengen in the newly renovated Kent Auditorium sponsored by Jake & Victoria Avellino in honor of Adrianna's 2nd birthday and in appreciation of Gary Jacoby for his years of service as Gabbai and in memory of his mother Sara bas Gavriel a"h on her yartzeit



מולד הודש
שבט
יהה ביום
הראשון
בשעה 3
יום 06
הקליקים
ו-11

ר"ה שבט יהיה
ביום השני
הבעל"ט

JOIN THIS FASCINATING SIX-SESSION COURSE

WITH RABBI YOSSI MENDELSON

BEGINNING JANUARY 21, 2026 AT 7:30 PM

MORE INFO AND SIGN UP AT

MACHANECHODOSH.ORG/JLI

The Synagogue with a ❤ in the ❤ of Forest Hills

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SHABBAT VA'EIRA/MEVARCHIM SHEVAT

Friday, January 16	Light Shabbos Candles	4:35 PM
Mincha - Kabbolas Shabbos		4:40 PM
Shabbat, January 17	Shacharis	9:00 AM
Children's Program		10:00 AM
Talmud Class		3:30 PM
Mincha (and Shalosh Seudos)		4:20 PM
Shabbos Ends		5:39 PM

WEEKDAY SERVICES

SHACHARIS

Sunday	.....	8:00 AM
Monday, Jan. 19th	Rosh Chodesh Shevat & MLK Day	8:00 AM
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday	7:15 AM
Thursday	7:05 AM

MINCHA

1/18-1/22	4:45 PM
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SCHEDULE OF TORAH CLASSES

Rambam's Mishneh Torah	Daily	following Shacharis
Jewish Mysticism (men)	.....	Mondays	7:30 PM
Friendship Club	.....	Wednesdays	12:00 PM
Parsha Class in loving memory of Rivka Kogan OB"M	.....	Wednesdays	12:15 PM
The Rebbe's Advice (Zoom only)	.....	Motzei Shabbos	6:30 PM

SHABBAT BO

Friday, January 23	Light Shabbos Candles	4:43 PM
Mincha - Kabbolas Shabbos	.....	4:50 PM
Shabbat, January 24	Shacharis	9:00 AM
Children's Program	.....	10:00 AM
Talmud Class	.....	3:30 PM
Mincha (and Shalosh Seudos)	.....	4:25 PM
Shabbos Ends	.....	5:47 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

SISTERHOOD MOVIE MATINEE (RESCHEDULED)

Sunday, January 18th, 2 PM

The sisterhood invites all to a screening of the movie "The Juggler" \$7 per person, refreshments will be served. RSVP to Iris Goldberg

ROSH CHODESH SOCIETY FOR WOMEN

Tuesday, January 20th, 8:15 PM

Rebbetzin Mendelson invites all women to the third session of RCS at her home, featuring "The Art of Eat" Managing Food and Munching for Meaning, with hands on food demo. Sponsored by Mira Polvanova.

GROUNDBREAKING RABBINIC RESPONSES THROUGHOUT HISTORY

Wednesday, January 21st, 7:30 PM

Join Rabbi Mendelson for a fascinating 6 week series from the JLI bringing thirty stories from across Jewish history that bring Jewish law to life. Register at MachaneChodosh.org/JLI (enter MCmember for members' discount)

SHABBOS SHIRA FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER ITALIAN THEME

Friday, January 30th, 5 PM

You are invited to join us for a joyous Friday Night dinner with Meshoririm, uplifting Kabbolas Shabbos and delicious Shabbos Dinner. Shabbos day kiddush with lively songs and kumzitz. Sponsorships welcome. Early bird pricing until Jan.25th. RSVP at MachaneChodosh.org/Shabbat

THIS WEEK AT CMC

This past Tuesday, we held our CSS training on zoom for our security volunteers. We discussed the hows and whys of our security philosophy. We are grateful to Jacob Fiskus for leading our security committee and for arranging weekly volunteers to man the doors.

NEW COMMUNITY EVENTS WHATSAPP GROUP

A new Forest Hills Shuls Events Whatsapp chat opened this week in collaboration of the other Ashkenazi shuls in our neighborhood. The goal is to share upcoming events happening at each shul to foster a better sense of community among each other. If you'd like to join, please message Rabbi or Rebbetzin Mendelson.

A TELLING STORY

HOLY MURDERERS and a CRAZED JEW

Some 250 years ago in Russia, near the area where the first Rebbe of Chabad, Rabbi Shneur Zalman, lived, there was a crazy man.

He had been a normal, sensible religious Jew with a wife and family until one day he suddenly lost his mind and began screaming and thrashing about for no apparent reason. His family was shocked, his friends tried to help, his neighbors shook their heads in pity and the Rabbis prayed, but it didn't help. So they collected money and went for professional help. But the doctors also were at a loss and couldn't figure out what to do. They scratched their heads and shrugged their shoulders and said that perhaps it would just go away as suddenly as it came. Or perhaps they had to be patient and gradually he would improve. But the years passed and he didn't. To have him committed to an asylum was out of the question. Then someone suggested that they try the Rebbe of Chabad, Rabbi Shneur Zalman.

So they bound him, got him into a carriage, and after several hours were in the town of Liozna entering the Rebbe's office. In the presence of the Rebbe the madman was fairly still, once in a while giving a grunt or some other non-human sound and occasionally waving his hands, but surprisingly, when the Rebbe said he wanted to tell them a story and asked them to be seated, he sat and they untied him and he remained relatively still. The Rebbe began. "It says in the Talmud that when Nebuchadnezzar conquered Israel and his troops entered the First Temple to destroy it, they noticed there was a pool of blood bubbling on the floor of the Temple courtyard. The commanding general then gathered the Kohanim and asked for an explanation. They explained that it was the blood of a little-known Jewish Prophet called Zechariah [not the famous one who lived years later in the beginning of the Second Temple.] The accepted story is that the Jews stoned him to death because he stood in the Temple courtyard and told them things they didn't want to hear--enumerating their

sins and threatening them with death and exile if they didn't repent. "But, in fact, that is not what happened.. The motive in killing him was much more positive."

The Rebbe looked at the crazy man and then at his family and continued. "The fact is that only a few men stoned Zechariah and they were 'tzadikim- totally righteous Jews--perhaps the only Jews who had not sinned in those days. They stoned him in order to save everyone else. "He did not anger anyone; he didn't even speak. They were aware that the Jews weren't ready to change their ways. "So they decided that they had to make the ultimate sacrifice even if it would cost them both this world and the next! They knew that by killing him they would die as sinners ...

"You will ask why didn't the prophet Zacharia himself refuse to make his prophecy? Certainly, he had no less love for his fellow Jews than those who killed him. Why didn't he just keep quiet? "The answer is that a true prophet is nothing more than a conduit for G-d's messages and he knows that G-d is good. "But those who killed him did worry and they felt they had no choice but to make a desperate attempt to save the Jewish people from tragedy and exile. So they murdered him.

"Now, the tortured souls of those Tzadikim who 'executed' Zechariah have been in limbo for almost 2500 years; they couldn't enter heaven because of their sin of murder. And the gates of hell also would not admit them because of their pure intentions. So they have been waiting to be rectified "That is why you came to me." The Rebbe concluded. "These souls entered your father's body and made him insane in the hope that someone could find some redeeming quality in their sin and free them. And that is what I did. "When I presented a 'zechut' (merit) on their deed, I made a 'Tikun' (rectification) on their souls and now both they and your father are released."

Suddenly the insane man closed his eyes briefly, smiled with relief and began to breathe easily. He was cured!

SHABBAT SHALOM