

The Jewish Association of the Philippines

Adar/Nissan 5769

March 2009

Volume 1 / Number 3

Parashat

| | |
|----------|-------------------------|
| March 7 | <i>Tatzave</i> |
| March 14 | <i>Ki Tisa</i> |
| March 21 | <i>Vayakhel-Pekudei</i> |
| March 28 | <i>Vayikra</i> |

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING

| | |
|----------|--------|
| March 6 | 5:46PM |
| March 13 | 5:48PM |
| March 20 | 5:48PM |
| March 27 | 5:49PM |

ROSH CHODESH

March 26

WEEKLY

Sunday: 8:00 am Minian/ 9:30 am Hebrew School

Monday: 7:15 am Minian Shacharit

Tuesday: 11:00 am class with Rabbanit

Thursday: 7:15 am Minian Shacharit

Friday: 6:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Shabbat: 9:30 am Minian followed by Kiddush
12:45 pm Mincha/ 4:15 pm class with
Rabbi Followed by Seudat Shlishit, Arvit and havdala

MAZALTOV

Rabbi and Rabbanit on the birth of their son Yaacov



UPCOMING EVENTS

Filipino Friday Shabbat Dinner Date to be announced
April 26 Israeli Independence Day Feast and Celebration

QUESTION

Why are there 2 loaves of Challah used
for the blessing on Shabbat?
Correct answer by a child gets a prize from the
Rabbanit!!

Tu B'Shevat



The whole community turned out for the annual Tu B'Shevat tree planting in La Mesa Echo Park. It was a day filled with learning about planting trees, worms and other ecological themes. Then there was the food. From Hebrew National hot dogs to almost anything you could think of. The Rabbi and the Rabbanit outdid themselves, and out did last year. Then there was the wall climbing, boating, rope climbing and paint ball. The weather was great and it was a great day.

You can see, and copy, a lot of pictures from that wonderful day. Go to our website at jewishphilippines.org, click on newsletters, click on Tu B'Shevat pictures. If you click on the small picture you will see a larger one.

A FEW OF THIS MONTH'S VISITORS



Barry Rubenstein and Ben Philipson



Moti Guthartz



Ralph Khezrie



Ariel Ben Avraham



Asher Cohen

JEWISH ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

110 H. V. Dela Costa Street
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Philippines

Tel: (632) 815-0265

Fax: (632) 840-2566

Website: www.jewishphilippines.org

Email: admin@jewishphilippines.net

MOROCCAN FEAST



Last February 27, we had our 2nd community Shabbot dinner. This time it was a Moroccan feast prepared by Mrs. Daniela Bentzadik. Our community was so fortunate to savor the wonderful dishes she solely prepared in the Synagogue kitchen. Daniela prepared a variety of salads. The eggplant and beet salads were so tasty. She also served cabbage salad, roasted tomato salad, Israeli salad and squash salad. The squash salad was something new to taste. She had her famous hot chili spice and delicious cilantro paste to add wherever you wanted it. Then Daniela made her Moroccan fish dish which had a spicy chili pepper cilantro sauce. She was so sweet to make some of the fish with a non-spicy sauce for the children....and some adults. She then served a vegetarian couscous to the delight of those who are vegetarians. The couscous disappeared so fast.

Then the main course consisted of Mediterranean Moroccan meatballs in onion sauce, stuffed chickens that looked so beautiful you did not want to eat them. The beef shoulder roast she made with it's own juice for sauce. She made a side dish of olives cooked with the most splendid sauce. In spite of all the food we had 3 different deserts that are her specialty.

It was so nice to see so many new families come to Shabbot and join regular members and families. The diplomatic sector was well represented with Ambassador and Mrs. Vapni and their children, Yaniv and Limor Revach. Also Jacob and Frida Sredney from Ranana, Israel, Ms Anna Levy from the US, and Dan and Eti Gedatch and her parents, who are visiting from Israel.

As the Rabbi said, because Daniela agreed to share with us her wonderful art of cooking, she has encouraged others to come celebrate Shabbot with the community's regular members. Thank you Daniela.

We look forward to the next Shabbaton. We already have the first male volunteer chef, Mr. Ferdie Sarfati. He along with Elana Gilan, Anne Zeitune, Carina Sarfati and me and my cook, will make the 1st Filipino Shabbaton. Look for the date in future announcements.

Maricar Mascuñana

BOOK DONATION

Once again we have received a wonderful donation of books from Rabbi Talmid and Tal Shem Tov. They have donated books several months ago, and now again. There are Hebrew and English books covering a great range of topics.

These books are here for the members to read and learn and enjoy. Please borrow them. When borrowing them, please see Claire to fill out a form.

The Synagogue is looking for help from a member who could be our librarian. We have so many books we need to catalog both adults and children's. We need a listing for our website and our library. We need to arrange them as we are putting new areas for the books not only in the library but in the social hall. Anyone who is interested please contact John Kator in the office or by email at admin@jewishphilippines.net

INFORMATION FORMS

Please take a minute and fill out the attached form. We need to update our records and also would like to be able to know our members birth-days, anniversaries' and Yahrzeit's.

jewishphilippines.org

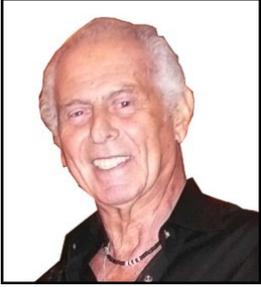
That's our website. We are fully functional now. This is only the beginning of our new and exciting appearance on the web. We have many ideas and changes we will be making. Anyone with any ideas and comments please contact us, we need your feedback to make the site responsive to our members needs. For any comments about either the website and/or the newsletter, please contact Lee Blumenthal at sewperft@i-manila.com.ph

NEW EMAIL CONTACTS

Please note our new email addresses:

Rabbi Azaria rabbi@jewishphilippines.net
Paul Rosenberg president@jewishphilippines.net
John Kater admin@jewishphilippines.net

A SAD AND HUMBLING EXPERIENCE



I had a very gratifying and emotional experience. The rabbi called me and asked me if I could officiate at a funeral. The rabbi was too far away and it was very near me.

The gentleman lived very close to me and I'm very sorry I never met him. His name was

Werner Alfred Gaisor. He was the product of the holocaust, being born in a concentration camp in Germany in 1944 and the sole survivor of his family. I was kind of nervous about doing this but it turned out that it's a really nice family made up of Christians and Muslims. His son-in-laws' mother was there, she's being appointed to be the new Ambassador to Bahrain. She leaves in a couple of weeks. She is now the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and a real nice lady. The immediate family was made up of his wife, a daughter, her husband and a young son and lots of close family members. He also had a son and granddaughter that live in Germany. I met some more very nice people and they all shared the grief together. After I did the service I had everyone in the immediate family say a prayer. That worked out better than I expected. I found it very moving and felt really good that I was able to help.

I didn't think I had it in me to do this properly and really humbled and surprised myself.

As Jews we can and are obligated to do whatever is necessary for other Jews from giving charity to burying someone which makes our religion unique.

Bob Fragman

For Paul Rosenberg the burial of Jerry Zuravsky was a reminder of not only the rituals and traditions valued by his religion, but of the human values that are sometimes more prevalent inside very small, far flung communities.

I don't know what would happen in large Jewish communities, he said. This was a similar situation that would happen in small Jewish communities around the world. It's an important thing to bury someone in the Jewish community. If you're a Jew, you are obligated to bury a fellow Jew, even if you don't know him. It's a great honor.

*The above article was written by **Ted Lerner**. Ted lives in Angeles City with his wife and 13 year old daughter. You can read more by Ted on his website www.tedlerner.com*

BURYING JERRY ZURAVSKY

Jerry Zuravsky died suddenly in 2001 at the age of 59 in Manila. It's not surprising that wails of grief and gasps of shock from the local expat community completely failed to materialize. Since just about nobody knew the man, nobody had any inkling of his death. .

Jerry Zuravsky was born in 1941 in Columbus, Ohio, a descendant of Ukrainian Jewish immigrants. He went on to become a lawyer but in 1985 he retired from law and moved to Manila by himself. One of the first things he did upon setting himself up in Manila, was to join the Elks Club. Many long time American expats are also members of the Elks in Manila. This is where Zuravsky met Art Sokolow.

Then in 1999, Zuravsky began having heart problems. He checked into the Makati Medical Center and had open heart surgery. While he was recovering from the surgery, however, he found out he had Hodgkin's disease. Just a few months later, Jerry Zuravsky was dead.

Art Sokolow remembers hearing the news when he got a call from Zuravsky's personal assistant.

He says, Jerry died. So I said, How can I help Sokolow recalls that Zuravsky's assistant told him he had called Jerry's brother in Arizona. The brother had informed him that there was no family plot in the United States, and that they didn't have the money to transport his brother's body overseas. The brother suggested that since Jerry had spent a good part of his life in the Philippines, that perhaps he could be buried there. The brother mentioned that Jerry was Jewish and asked if there was a Jewish cemetery in Manila.

Zuravsky's assistant called the one and only synagogue in the Philippines and got put on with Paul Rosenberg, the president. When Rosenberg heard the name Jerry Zuravsky, he admitted to drawing a blank. We never met the guy, Rosenberg said, never heard about him. We had no contact with him whatsoever.

The small Jewish community of Manila went into operation, taking care of one its own, even though he was a complete unknown, all because he was Jewish, and because it is a high obligation in the Jewish religion to make sure a Jew, any Jew, gets a decent burial. Jerry Zuravsky was about to exit this world in a proper and dignified manner. After talking with Sokolow, Rosenberg arranged for an ambulance to bring the body to the synagogue, where it was first bathed according to ritual, then wrapped in a shroud. He then put out the call to some fellow Jews in the area, some of whom were not even regular attendees of the temple. Then on a drizzly Sunday morning, twenty plus people showed up for the burial. Except for Sokolow and the hired help of Zuravsky, not one of the others had ever even heard of the deceased. It's not easy to get people to show up at any time, said Sokolow, especially on a Sunday morning when they could have very easily been doing something else. Most Jews don't even show up on the high holidays. But they showed up for Jerry Zuravsky.

After some light refreshments, everyone got in their cars and drove with the body, which was inside a hearse, the ten kilometers out to the North Cemetery, a sprawling 250 hectare tract filled to the brim mostly with the remains of Catholics. In a far-off corner of the North Cemetery sits a small Jewish cemetery which is run by the synagogue. The cemetery is surrounded by a wrought iron fence adorned with several stars of David and a sign that reads Jewish Cemetery and the year 1925 indicating the date when it first opened. Inside the gates several hundred bodies, some dating back to the early 20th century, are buried under headstones adorned with the Star of David and inscribed in English and Hebrew lettering.

The service, conducted by Rabbi Shlomo Attias, a Moroccan rabbi, took all of five minutes. Sokolow was the only one who spoke. Everyone on hand picked up a handful of soil and dropped it in the grave. Jerry Zuravsky was finally laid to rest.

Today the grave of Jerome A. Zuravsky is a raised pile of earth, grown over with grass and adorned with a simple wood and tin sign painted with a lone Star of David, Zuravsky's name and another fellow with whom he shares the plot.

My regard for the Jewish community here has really increased, said Sokolow as he recalled the burial. Word went out that there was a Jew who passed away. That's all they needed to hear. So they showed up.