

Nov 2009

Cheshvan-Kislev, 5770

בס"ד  
חשוון-כסלו תש"ע



## *Stony Brook Hebrew Congregation Newsletter*

### **This month's services schedule**

Date:	Candle lighting	Evening Service	Shacharit/ Mincha	Kriat Shema	Maariv	Shabbat Ends
6-7	4:24 pm	5:00 pm	9:30 am	9:03 am	5:35 pm	5:23 pm
13-14	4:17 pm	5:00 pm	9:30 am	9:07 am	5:25 pm	5:17 pm
20-21	4:12 pm	5:00 pm	9:30 am	9:12 am	5:20 pm	5:12 pm
27-28	4:08 pm	5:00 pm	9:30 am	9:17 am	5:20 pm	5:09 pm

Weekday Maariv – 5:40 pm at Delancy Street Cafe.

### **Learning**

Weekly Talmud Class – Tuesdays at 8:00 pm led by Rabbi Roffman in the Beit Midrash.

### **Special events in November**

Rosh Chodesh Kislev – Monday night, November 16th to Wednesday night, November 18th.

Chulent at Kiddush – On November 14th after Shacharit.

### **Nachas News**

- Happy Birthday to Barbara Ebin, Yasha Ebin, Rochel Linkoff, Naftoli Stein, Avraham Roffman, and Tziviah Delman.
- Mazel Tov to Zack Ebin on his engagement to Elisheva Morris of Toronto.

### **Observing Yahrzeit**

- Adele Milch for her father on the 16th of Cheshvan, November 3rd.

### **Kiddush**

Kiddush this month is sponsored by the Milch family.

### **Rabbi Roffman's Monthly Message**

About twenty years ago a lonely little character sat on everyone's keyboard. Nobody took much notice of him. He wasn't very useful. He wasn't the SPACE bar; he wasn't CAPS; he wasn't even CAPS LOCK. Almost the only people who ever pressed him were storekeepers and ledger writers who needed a mathematical abbreviation to turn two letters into one. His name was @.

@ was the loneliest character on the keyboard — typography's ugly duckling.

Whoever would have thought a few short years later, @ is a megastar of worldwide proportions. Now he's on everyone's lips. Countless millions of email addresses span the world and everyone has to use that little ugly duckling — @.

The ugly duckling of the world of typography has become a swan.

Just a few weeks ago, the Torah identifies the failings that led G-d to bring the great flood that destroyed almost the whole world. The failings of the *Dor Hapalaga*, the Generation of the Dispersal, however, are not so clear. The Midrash explains that Avraham alone proclaimed the Unity of G-d to the world. The generation of the flood saw him and his beliefs as a barren mule devoid of progeny, of a future. To their minds, monotheism would die with Avraham. They wanted to build a tower with an idol at its top; sword in hand it would proclaim that the earth had seceded from the heavens.

They couldn't have been more wrong. Despite being alone in his beliefs, Avraham's gift to the world, monotheism, became the most widespread faith in the world.

The Mishna in Avot (4:3) says, "...do not despise any man, and consider nothing impossible, because there is no man that does not have his hour, and nothing that does not have its place."

Even the humble @.

Adapted from Ohr.edu.