



HaChodesh

בס"ד

Monthly Newsletter of the Mashadi Youth Committee

נשריח מאהיאנה כמיתה אואנאן משהדי

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January 2014 · SPECIAL EDITION

Tevet - Shevat 5774

MYC New Year's Eve 2014

The MYC will host its annual New Year's Eve party at Senor Nacho Restaurant (31 S. Middle Neck Rd.), Tuesday evening December 31st. The night will feature dinner and DJ's Warren & Eman. Tickets are \$65 for girls, \$75 for guys (\$85 after December 26th). To purchase tickets and more information, visit www.mashadi.org or contact any MYC member.

@130 Returning This January

By popular demand, @130 will return this January, opening with the first ever "Mesh Factor." The night will feature the community's most talented performers showing off their skills to a panel of special guest judges. A variety of games will also be available all night, including foosball, ping pong, pop-a-shot basketball and more. If you have a talent you'd like to display @130, or know of anyone who does, contact us at mashadiyouthcommittee@gmail.com.

Programs @130 Registration

This semester, YMJC will be offering exciting new classes including: Jiu-Jitsu, Kids Yoga, Israeli Dance for women, Live Your Best Life, How to Grow Your Business, and much more! The new semester's registration will take place on Sunday, January 12th, from 2-5pm at 130 Steamboat Rd. For more information, please call or email Avital at (516) 708-9999 or avital@mashadi.org.



Indoor Playground @130

The indoor playground at 130 Steamboat Road is once again available for community use on Sundays from 2-5pm! It will be open every Sunday in January. It is free of charge and there will be pizza available for \$2 per slice. It is open to all ages (with parental supervision). For further information, please call the YMJC office at 516-708-9999.

MTC Ice-Skating Trip

MTC will be heading to New York City for a night of skating on the ice! This year, the event will take place on Saturday night, January 11th. Pizza will be served at 130 Steamboat at 7:30PM, followed by bus departure at 8:00PM. \$25 includes dinner, bus transportation and skating. Limited space available so please reserve your spot by December 24th.














For more information, contact

Erica Kamali (516) 965-8720, Adam Livi (516) 423-3787 or David Hajibay (516) 507-9232.

Higher Education Committee Mashadi Student Loan Program 2014 Spring Semester

The Mashadi Cultural and Educational committee (Higher Education Committee) would like to inform our Community's students about the Interest-Free Mashadi Student Loan Program. The student loan program is based only on financial need. Student loans are for both undergraduate and post-graduate studies. All Community applicants for the 2014 Spring Semester must complete and mail in an application form, along with a copy of their registered tuition bill no later than Friday, January 3, 2014. Applications can be downloaded from the UMJCA homepage at www.mashadi.org. For purposes of confidentiality, applications should be mailed to: Higher Ed Executive committee, PO Box 220154, Great Neck, NY 11022. All loan applications will be reviewed by the Higher Ed Student Loan Review Committee to determine what amount (if any) can be disbursed. Repayment of Student Loans are to be made over a 3 year period (1/3 each year) following graduation so that future Mashadi students can also receive the same assistance. For questions about the student loan program or application, please contact Marty Bassaly at MBassaly@aol.com or (516) 277-4023. NOTE: In 2010, a new Education Fund was established for Post Graduates, called the Laleh Hannah Nassimi Memorial Foundation. The Foundation provides financial assistance to qualifying Mashadi students based on both need and merit. Funds are available for Post-Graduate studies (Masters, PhD, Law School, Med School, etc.) in the United States only. The Higher Education Committee strongly encourages all qualifying Mashadi students to apply using the same application noted above. Effective 2012, medical school students can now apply for the Dr. Mousa Hakimi Medical Scholarship Fund. For more information and separate application, please contact Jonathan LeVian at jonathanlevian@gmail.com.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 <p>Solomon Bass F I N A N C I A L</p> <p>Life Insurance, Disability Insurance, Long Term Care Insurance Salim Shlomo Bassalian CLTC, LTCP (516) 499-9900 Honest & Reliable</p>	<p>29 טבת 1</p> <p>► New Years Day</p>	<p>1 שבט 1</p> <p>► Rosh Chodesh Shevat</p> 	<p>2 שבט 2</p> <p>► Candle Lighting: 4:23pm</p> 	<p>3 שבט 3</p> <p>► Parashah: Bo ► Shabbat Ends: 5:32pm</p>	<p>4 שבט 4</p> <p>► Parashah: Bo ► Shabbat Ends: 5:32pm</p>
<p>4 שבט 4</p> <p>► Wedding: Danielle Zar & Ryan Akhavan, Cipriani, 5:30pm</p> 	<p>5 שבט 5</p>	<p>6 שבט 6</p>	<p>7 שבט 7</p>	<p>8 שבט 8</p>	<p>9 שבט 9</p> <p>► Candle Lighting: 4:30pm</p> 	<p>10 שבט 10</p> <p>► Shabbat Shirah ► Parashah: Beshalach ► Shabbat Ends: 5:39pm</p>
<p>11 שבט 11</p> <p>► Wedding: Brenda Zabihli & Brian Hakimi, RAM Old Westbury, 5:00pm</p> 	<p>12 שבט 12</p>	<p>13 שבט 13</p>	<p>14 שבט 14</p>	<p>15 שבט 15</p> <p>► Tu B'Shevat (Hlanot)</p> 	<p>16 שבט 16</p> <p>► Candle Lighting: 4:38pm</p> 	<p>17 שבט 17</p> <p>► Parashah: Yitro ► Shabbat Ends: 5:47pm</p>
<p>18 שבט 18</p> <p>► Bar-Mitzvah: Yisrael Enayatian, Shaare Shalom (54 Steamboat Rd.), 10:00am</p> 	<p>19 שבט 19</p> <p>► Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</p>	<p>20 שבט 20</p>	<p>21 שבט 21</p>	<p>22 שבט 22</p>	<p>23 שבט 23</p> <p>► Candle Lighting: 4:46pm</p> 	<p>24 שבט 24</p> <p>► Parashah: Mishpatim ► Shabbat Ends: 5:55pm</p>
<p>25 שבט 25</p>	<p>26 שבט 26</p>	<p>27 שבט 27</p>	<p>28 שבט 28</p>	<p>29 שבט 29</p>	<p>30 שבט 30</p> <p>► Rosh Chodesh Adar I ► Candle Lighting: 4:55pm</p> 	<p>31 שבט 31</p>



Chag Tu B'Shevat Sameach!

Rabbi Eliyahu Ben-Haim
Rabbi Mordechai Kohanim
Rabbi Yosef Bitton
Rabbi Adam Sabzevari
Rabbi Moshhe Aziz
Mikveh Moshe

(718) 805-9523 Mashadi Jewish C. - Shaare Shalom
(516) 603-3441 Young Mashadi Jewish Center
(516) 382-4447 Shaare Tova Synagogue
(516) 510-2981 Shalom Early Childhood Center
(516) 423-1939 Great Neck Ambulance
(516) GN-MIKVE Hatzolah Ambulance (Queens)

(516) 487-3636
(516) 482-0444
(718) 849-2345
(516) 829-1435
(516) 482-5000
(718) 387-1750

HaChodesh Mazal Tov!

Newlyweds



Rossella Kalaty (Daughter of Ramin and Ronita) to Michael Hakimian (Son of Khosrow and Fariba)



Yasmine Rahmanan (Daughter of Khosrow and Malka) to Shawn Behnam (Son of Rafi and Doris)



Lauren Soleiman (Daughter of Shlomo and Hilly) to George Bassalian (Son of Daniel and Dalia)



Jennifer Mounessa to Don Hakim (Son of Ike and Behjat)



Rebecca Ijadi (Daughter of Siamak and Sharleen) to Evan Hakimi (Son of Saed and Hengameh)



Michelle Khojahiny (Daughter of Michael and Ellena) to Jonathan Eliassi (Son of Khosrow and Soheila)

If your Mazal Tov was missed, please accept our apology and send the picture and information to hachodesh@gmail.com

Mazal Tov  Continued...

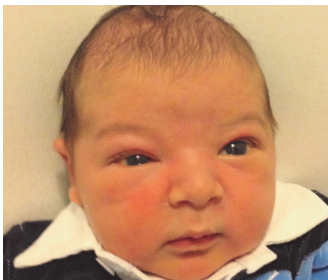
The Newest Mashadis



Rivqa Aziz
(Daughter of Rabbi Mosheh
and Gabriella)



Jacob Nematnejad
(Son of Isaac and Paulette)



Shmuel Nissim Enayatian
(Son of Moshe and Monica)



Yehuda Zerubavel Hakimian
(Son of Leon and Elisheva)



Noam Gorjian
(Son of Kevin and Stacey)

Engagment



Elan Ben-David (Son of Ishay and Ruthy) to
Sharon Kashimallak (Daughter of Eshagh and Jila)

Charity Auction Night

Save the date The Third Annual UMJCA Charity Auction Night will be held on Saturday evening, February 15, 2014 at Temple Israel of Great Neck.

Affordable Care Act - Obama Care

All community members are invited to attend an important lecture given by representatives of the FECS organization (member of the UJA Federation) regarding the affordable care act, also known as Obama Care. You will get information, advice and help regarding the new health insurance law. Professionals from our own community will be there to translate and to assist you. The event is on Thursday, January 16th at 7pm in Shaare Shalom (54 Steamboat Rd.). For more information you can contact Anna Carmili.

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Mashadi Youth Committee

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ועד צעירי משהדי

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Nadine Nassim, Adin Levian, Ilene Levy, Jonathan LeVian

ASSISTANT: Mickey Karimzadeh



Introducing the HaChodesh Special Edition

It is often said that the best way to secure our community traditions is by recording them for future generations, through anecdotes, speeches, and text. With our rich history and traditions, the Mashadi community has thrived and will continue to for generations to come through the passing down of our story. The HaChodesh Special Edition serves to expand on the monthly calendar on a quarterly basis, featuring articles on a range of topics from a diverse selection of community members. We hope that this Special Edition will serve to spark discussion, entertain, and, most importantly, keep our traditions alive on paper. If you would like to contribute to future issues, or know of anyone who would, contact us at HaChodesh@gmail.com, or speak to anyone from our board.

*Yossi Abrahami, Carolina Aziz, Jasmine Dilmanian, Simon Ebrani, Joseph Kamali,
Adin Levian, Jonathan LeVian, Ilene Levy, Nadine Nassim*

“Shir Lama’a lot”: Understanding the Mashadi Tradition

During a series of popular Learn It Up classes this semester, Rabbi Nassim Bassalian taught Mashadi history and traditions. One class went into detail on our custom of “Shir Lama’a lot” for engaged couples. It is transcribed below from an audio recording of the class. Audio recordings have been uploaded to Mashadi.org.

Generations ago in Tehran, engagements would come about through a practice known as “chastegari,” during which a man would court a woman through suggestion from his own family (usually never even seeing the girl), and then approach the elders of the community to “chastegar” on his behalf. The elders would go to the home of the woman and request her hand in marriage on the man’s behalf.

Once the woman and her family accepted this chastegar, of which she would sometimes receive many per day, the Rabbi would make it official by reciting Shir Lama’a lot. This would make it absolutely clear, final, and official to everyone that this woman and man are now “off the market.” Many decades later, people ask, “why do we still keep this tradition? These days, it is very obvious when a couple is official. Why is this recitation needed?” While not classified as a halacha, this is a very important tradition. It serves as an announcement of the engagement to all in the community, and validates it in the eyes of G-d. Why Shir Lama’a lot out of all prayers? The prayer starts, “Shir lama’alot. Esa einai el heharim: me’ayin yavo ezri. Ezri me’im Hashem ose shamaim va’aretz” - I lift my eyes and ask where my help is coming from, and acknowledge that all my help is from G-d, my Lord, the creator of the heaven and earth. In Parasha Bereshit, when G-d created man, He said, “lo matzati ezer keh negdoh.” Adam, the first man, could not find any help for a match. G-d then created heaven and earth, then a partner for the first man. We are reminded of the first marriage between Adam and Chava. Adam found his “ezer” (help), just like present-day couples find each other. By reciting Shir Lama’alot, we are being reminded that the “ezri,” the match, is coming from G-d.



A Timely Message

By Rachel Kavian

There are very few things in this world that man cannot buy, that are only G-d given. Time is an incredible thing. We don't know how much of it we have, nor do we know what to do with it when we have an abundance of it. You can take it away from someone, and couldn't return it to them if you wanted to.



Over a quarter of a century has passed me by, and what have I done to show for this gift? Sure I am a high-functioning adult with regard for others, and I try my very best to spend my waking hours being as productive as possible, but it’s human nature to spend as much time self-indulging as possible. There are occasions where I would prefer it if someone stole my wallet rather than my time. I’m a firm believer that everyone’s time is equally important, because no one knows what it will bring or how much of it they have left. The older we get the faster time goes. Years fly by, months feel as fast as a sneeze, and days are a relative blink.

There are so many common phrases in reference to time, but why is there such a concept as “fashionably late”? I have met very few people who claim to not be busy; in Los Angeles this is a possibility, but here in New York everyone at least *claims* to be busy. Being busy is great for most people, the hardest part about it is enjoying the time you have with the people you care about, and doing the things that make you feel like you. How do we make sure to be as respectful as possible of other people’s time? Perhaps arriving at events when they are called for, or just listing the actual time they will begin instead of leaving guests guessing? There is often a strong likelihood that the guest of the hypothetical event has countless other things they could have been doing to better care for their home, giving to others around them, or studying or serving Hashem.

We live in an era where things happen in the press of a button, and baking is even faster with the convection feature in some models of ovens. How do we maximize the time that we have and make it as productive and fulfilling as possible? I’m not saying never watch TV again. I propose some simpler, daily ideas: engage in 20 real minutes of conversation with your spouse; tell at least five people you love them; pray for a few minutes on the way to work, or on the way back if you already have the morning covered; be on time for things, or at least be considerate enough to communicate any lateness. If we make sure our time is valuable, we’ll understand how important it is to respect the precious time of others. I have tried my hardest not to ramble and take away from your day, as I understand how valuable your time is. Cherish every moment.

25 Year Look Ahead: Where Will We Be?

By Michael Hakimian (Jabarzadeh)

This year, the Mashadi community has seen a relatively large number of engagements and weddings. These couples will look to settle into their own homes, and in due time, G-d willing, have their own children. Using 25 years as a rough timeframe for the following generation to repeat (newborns of today growing up and starting their own families), this article briefly explores our community growth, population, living situations, and our future.

There are many pros (and cons) of living in a 'tight knit' community, but arguably the greatest benefit is the low rate of assimilation. With the assimilation rate in America of 6 out of 10 (see recent poll studies published in Wall Street Journal), we see firsthand how 'tight' communities are relatively immune: the Syrian community in Brooklyn, Orthodox Ashkenazi congregations in Great Neck, and of course, our own Mashadi community, which has survived (and thrived) for the most part between Queens and Great Neck for the last 35 years. However, looking ahead, is it possible for this community to stay close, if we do not fit in the same neighborhood?

According to Wikipedia (with data pulled from the 2000 & 2010 US Census data), in the Larger Great Neck Area, there are approximately 40,000 residents in 9 townships: Village of Great Neck (3,625 homes), Great Neck Estates (944), Great Neck Plaza (4,052), Kensington (447), Kings Point (1,455), Lake Success (824), Russell Gardens (409), Saddle Rock (275), Thomaston (1,000), Great Neck Gardens (381), Harbor Hills (186), Saddle Rock Estates (139), and University Gardens (1,696). Including added homes since then, that is approximately 16,000 housing units in Great Neck (single family and apartments). Figuring that our community has grown from approximately 2,000 people in 1979 (averaging 2 to 3 children per family), to over 6,000 strong today (averaging between 3 to 4 children per family, or more), it won't be long before Eenshallah our community with need 16,000 housing units of their own. Not even factoring the rising costs of homes and living expenses in Great Neck, we theoretically will not even fit here indefinitely.

This begs the question: where will we be? The Syrian Jews in Brooklyn have had the advantage of spreading further into Brooklyn, but Great Neck is a Peninsula, trapped by water on 3 sides, and highways on the fourth. Assuming that only a few multifamily apartment buildings can be added each year, before the Planning Boards deem Great Neck's infrastructure (Roads, Schools, Hospitals, etc) to be stretched to capacity, one can assume that the entire community residing in Great Neck in the long term, is not a viable option. Some have seen Manhasset and surrounding townships as close enough to the community (and a close enough commute to Manhattan), but those home prices are also growing rapidly. The Mashadi community in Italy has shrunken as their Mashadi Jews have moved here, so one can largely rule out foreign countries (save of course, for Israel – G-d willing all Jews should be back there one day). Some young couples have found success living in Kew Gardens, or similar Jewish neighborhoods in Queens, and spending Shabbats with extended family in Great Neck (this strategy could theoretically be viable for at least 1 or 2 more generations). Then what? Some communities naturally divide themselves by congregations, religious/political levels, etc. Is that our fate?

So, the real questions is: can we stay united in America as Mashadis 'forever'? Time will tell. We have survived after the Diaspora of the original 12 tribes of ancient Israel, our Sephardi forefathers fleeing from Spain, and the original Persian families who became the Mashadi community several centuries ago. Ultimately, one can only hope that regardless of where we live, or whatever

Community Recipes: Noon Badomi

By Dorit Gohari

Ingredients: 1lb Finely Ground Almonds
4 Egg Whites
12 oz Powdered Sugar
1/2 Teaspoon Cardamon
1 Teaspoon Rose Water

Directions: Beat the egg whites. Add the powdered sugar. Add the almonds. Add the cardamom and rose water. With a small ice cream scooper, scoop from batter onto parchment paper and flatten with a fork. Bake on 350 degrees for about 20 minutes.



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