

The Jewish Association of the Philippines

Kislev/Tevet 5769

February 2009

Volume 1 / Number 2

Parashat

February 7	<i>Beshalach</i>
February 14	<i>Yitro</i>
February 21	<i>Mishpatim</i>
February 28	<i>Teruma</i>

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING

February 6	5:56PM
February 13	6:02PM
February 20	6:07PM
February 27	6:12PM

ROSH CHODESH

February 24 and 25

**Why are there 2 days for Rosh Chodesh?
Correct answer by a child gets a prize from
the Rabbanit!!**

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

CHILDREN'S BOOKS DONATION



Lauren Sorkin
assorting books



Some of the many
titles



The children reading
with the Rabbanit
and Teacher Jinky

The Synagogue received last week a huge and so very generous donation of Jewish children's books from Lauren Sorkin. They are in English and Hebrew. There are Jewish history, Jewish education, Jewish stories and creative books. There are hundreds of books. They will help in the school and the education of our children. You can borrow the books, please see Claire. It is an unbelievable gift. It is an incredible mitzvah. Thank you Lauren.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MOROCCAN BANQUET



An authentic MOROCCAN Banquet will be served in the Synagogue, Friday night, **February 27.**

Find out what surprises are in store....Who knows who will show up! Come and find out. Call Claire in the office for reservations and prices.

PURIM PARTY



Don't forget the annual Purim Party on **March 8.**

Bring all your family and friends



LADIES CORNER



Rabbanit Miriam's Torah Lessons every Tuesday from 11:00 am till 1:00 pm has been on going for more than 3 years now. This year in fact our class has grown to 8 ladies plus Miriam of course. I believe we will get a Minyan very soon. It started with learning **Pirkei Avot** which all of us learned so much that we kept on going and asking for more. This year we started with studying the week's Torah portion. Rabbanit goes into the depths of the meaning of the Torah Portion, then we dissect it into parts and have lengthy discussions on the subject.

Aside of our studying, our poker mentor, Anne Zeitone, has given some lessons on poker at 10:00 AM till 11:00 am before *the classes start*. The best student for this part goes to.....Mrs. Esther Elefant.

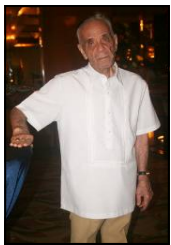
Every other Wednesday night, there will be the evening Ladies Torah study night.

Every other Thursday night, there will be fun night for the ladies.

Please join us, to join, call the Rabbanit at the Synagogue or email me at carmida@zpdee.net

Maricar Mascunana

Our Gabai



Our beloved Gabai, David "Mr. Hodu" Shamoan has left for Israel. He is exploring whether he will move there or stay here in Manila. For selfish reasons we hope he will decide to stay here. No one reads quite like he does and for sure no one calls people for an Aliyah with the same panache as he does. We hope you have a good trip and come back soon. We miss you.

MESSAGE FROM OUR RABBI



Last week I lead a class, joining was a friend and a Roman Catholic priest, Fr. Rocco, who came with a group of students studying to become Catholic priests.

The reason for their visit was to learn more about the Jewish faith and Interfaith Dialogue. One of the topics discussed was a document written in 1965 called *Nostra Aetate* (In Latin meaning 'in our age') in which a new policy is established by the Vatican regarding its relation to non Christian faiths. Section 4 of *Nostra Aetate*, shows a strong recognition of Christianity's roots in Judaism and the Jewish people, and states that the covenant established between God and Abraham remains unbroken. It goes on by saying that "the Church repudiates all persecutions against any man. ...the church deplores the hatred, persecutions, and displays of anti-Semitism directed against the Jews at any time and from any source."

Being asked regarding my feedback on the document, the first thing that came to my mind was respect and admiration for the Catholic Church's ability to recognize historic mistakes, and to take action to correct them.

After all the Historic tension, and religious persecutions (crusades, Inquisition, etc) it takes a lot of courage to acknowledge mistakes and to come forward and to state a policy of understanding and change towards the religions of the world.

One of the Students, Leonardo Rebong, asked me If I would share my views with others? My answer was an absolute yes; in fact this is what motivated me to write this article.

During our dialogue I asked regarding Bishop Richard Williamson, who was excommunicated by the Roman Catholic Church in 1988. How can this Bishop be accepted back to the church, a person like this can spread the venom of hatred among his congregants? He who denied the existence of gas chambers in the death camps and he claims that the murder of millions during the Holocaust are false. (The same person claims that the Jews aim at world dominion and believes The Protocols of the Elders of Zion to be authentic)

Fr. Rocco explained the excommunication as a lay man was lifted, but he remains suspended from exercising the functions of a bishop and priest. And in order for him to return to the Catholic church he has to, first, accept the authority of the Pope. And second, to acknowledge Vatican Council reforms, including *Nostra Aetate*, which declares anti-Semitism a sin, rejects proselytizing of Jews, and calls for improvement regarding the relations between the Catholics and the Jews.

Last week the Vatican made a statement where it demands that Bishop Richard Williamson publicly and unequivocally recant his Holocaust denial if he is ever to regain his clerical responsibilities in the Church.

This week Bishop Richard Williamson's own conservative Argentine seminary has ousted him and repudiated his statements, saying that "Statements by Monsignor Williamson in no way reflect the position of our congregation"



I am very happy to say that today the Jewish community has a partnership of dialogue and understanding with the Christian world, and one of the reasons for this change to be possible is this document called *Nostra Aetate*

Rabbi Azaria

Rabbi Azaria and Interfaith Group

AVAILABLE KOSHER PRODUCTS

We are currently making up a catalog of all available kosher products. Below are just a few of what you can get directly from the Synagogue. To order these, or any available products, or to find out what is available, please call Claire in the Synagogue office.

DAIRY

Fresh Milk: (Pasteurized), Full Cream, Low Fat, Non-Fat and chocolate flavored.

Cheese: White soft cheese (Quesong Puti), Cottage Cheese and Ricotta

Yogurt: (Full Cream) Plain and Flavored.

Sour Cream



Kiddush Wines, Grape Juice and Kosher Wines



Breads

Many different breads, only a few shown below.



Fish



Small Can of Tuna

Large Can of Tuna

Sardines

RENOVATIONS TO THE RABBI'S APARTMENT

The Rabbi's apartment is besieged with so many problems- leaks, unsightly floorings, faulty wirings, worn out plumbing etc. after our thorough inspection, we reported to the board the dire present condition of the area, probable causes of its circumstances and possible solutions to remedy them.

Knowing his experience in structural wear and tear headaches, the board requested Itsik Harel to study the repair and renovation project and address the problems. Without any hesitation and eager to contribute his service for the synagogue and the community, Harel accepted. Thanks to his valuable help and more power to him.

Collaborating with our findings and ideas to improve the place, Harel tasked Joey Tesalona, who studied in New York, to design the interiors of this marginally spaced apartment and change its entire layout to a highly functional, minimal maintenance and aesthetically acceptable living area befitting our Rabbi and his growing family.

We are happy to say repair plans, to be undertaken by Harel and the interiors designed and also supervised by Joey Tesalona look excellent and highly professional. More importantly, cost estimates got the board's approval. Almost sealed, the project is scheduled to start Feb 15.

During the renovation period, Rabbi and family will be relocated to the apartment of Itsak Ofek who generously agreed to house them for a song.

This project is just the beginning of a series of urgent repairs and renovations. Hopefully after the Rabbi's apartment, we can immediately work on the roof of the entire Synagogue and followed by the basement, which at present is pitifully disorganized .

But we think, due to fund constraint, the Board will be compelled to delay these undertakings.

Having the renovated Rabbi apartment will give a new look to our Synagogue in time for Pesach.

Anne Zeitoune & Miriam Ilana Gilan

Some of this Month's Visitors



THE CLASS OF THE SYNAGOGUE

As I promised I interviewed one of the girls from the class and her name is Esther Minc.

Esther says that she is inspired to learn more about the parsha and Hebrew because every time she goes there everyone is so nice to her and the kids are very quiet and they all listen to Rabbi Azaria when he is discussing the lesson about the parsha and Hebrew.

Esther says that sometimes she has some laughs around classes too and she loves it.

Belinda Fragman



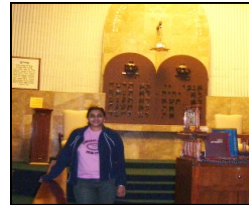
Barry Hack and Joel Burstein from Israel with Rabbi Azaria



Norman Turkish from Ithaca NY and Cornell U. pictured with Israel's Chief Rabbi Metzger



Vivian Cardema Gal and Vlady Cardema



Reena Isaac Sisodia from Mumbai, India



Axel Barbieux from Belgium



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