



## Chai Vekayam

### The Neve Shalom Synagogue Chai Members Newsletter

September 2018

Dear Chai members;

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Neve Shalom synagogue and the Jewish community in Suriname, I wish you and your families a

**Happy New Year and Gmar Chatima Tova!!**

May this be a year of health, happiness and peace!

### Celebrating the High Holidays in Suriname

This year we were blessed again with **Moriyah Webster** as our Torah reader during the High Holidays. Last year, Moriyah and Yehudah, a father and son team, conducted one of the most memorable services I've attended. This year was again a wonderful experience for the congregation. I wish I had the opportunity to be present this year, but hopefully next year I'll report again from Suriname.



Benjamin Duym blowing the Shofar with Moriyah Webster (Right), and Jules (Shul) Donk (in the middle)

I'm sure that the Yom Kippur services will also be well attended and meaningful.

### Celebrating the Community 2018 Passover Seder

In April, as always, we celebrated together the Passover Seder.



Our community Board of Directors conducting the Seder

Because of the economic crisis in Suriname and the Government restriction on foreign currency purchases, we have no access to US dollars. Our Matzot and Kosher wine for the community has to be imported from the United States. We are so fortunate that a few Chai members and Kulanu Canada helped us with their donations to overcome this obstacle.



Our community Seder

The Matzot and Kosher wine arrived on time and another wonderful community Seder took place in our Mahamad (our small community center).

For the donors – **THANK YOU** again for your generosity!!

The Jerusalem Post newspaper had a photo from our communal Seder in an article in its March 14<sup>th</sup> magazine:

<http://www.jpost.com/Magazine/On-the-Passover-Seder-545115>

It was nice to see our community's picture in this Israeli newspaper!

Thanks to Asaf Simoni for the link!

**The 2018 Paramaribo Museum Day Drew Record Visitors to our synagogue, again!**

As it becomes a tradition in Paramaribo, on May 26<sup>th</sup>, the City of Paramaribo organized Museum Day. In order to encourage the residents to learn about history, culture and the arts, all the Museums in the city had free admission.



Museum Day - Paramaribo

This year, as usual, people had the opportunity to visit our beautiful synagogue, our small museum, the Mikvah, learn about our rich history and see the gravestones from the old Sephardic cemetery (gravestones are dated from 1734 to 1904). In addition, we had lovely performances that included

Israeli dancing and Israeli songs, performed by our friends from the Christian community in Paramaribo.



Israeli folk dance is performed inside the Neve Shalom synagogue

Thousands of visitors had the opportunity to learn about and see the Holocaust Memorial Monument for the 104 Surinamese Jewish community members who died in Europe during the Holocaust.



Our volunteers explained to the visitors about the importance of the Mikvah in Jewish life

We had food stands and Jewish souvenirs sold by our dedicated volunteers.



Sara Aalstein and Consuela Prade

A very special **THANK YOU!** To Joan Duym who organized and managed with Lilly the event and the wonderful volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the event a great success.

Please watch an Israeli dance performed by our friends from the “Full Gospel evangelical church of Kenneth Cross”:

<https://www.facebook.com/joan.duym/videos/pcb.1913305442022186/1913304275355636/?type=3&thate>

It's a great example of how the different faiths in Suriname get along together.

## The Weekly Parasha is sent from Israel

In his last visit to Suriname, Suriname born and Israeli resident Baruch Lionarons has taken upon himself to send a weekly summary of the parasha in Dutch and write an occasional background explanation as required.

For our community without a Rabbi, Baruch's initiative is wonderful help and is highly appreciated. Thanks very much!!

## Big Storm Caused Extensive Damage to our Cemeteries

A recent severe storm caused extensive damage to our three cemeteries in Paramaribo. Huge fallen trees broke walls and fences, requiring major repairs and cleanup operations. Here are some pictures:



One of the many fallen trees on the Old Ashkenazy Cemetery wall



Clean up operation, truck after truck with debris heading to the dump

Walls had to be restored, fences to be repaired and repainted and a massive clean-up operation undertaken to restore the cemeteries to look respectable again.

We would like to thank one of our Chai members who was kind enough to donate funds for the repairs and to build cement barriers along our cemeteries' fences to prevent the on going damage to the fences by careless drivers. **THANK YOU!!**

## Comments

I'd like to thank **Lilly Duym** and **Norma Steinberg** for their contribution to our newsletter and to **Lilly Duym, Joan Duym** and **Jacques Reeder** for their photos.

Please let me know if you have any comments, suggestions or ideas on how to make this newsletter better. Please feel free to contact me at: [jks1111@rogers.com](mailto:jks1111@rogers.com)

Wishing you all Shana Tova and Gmar Chatima Tova!

Jacob Steinberg