

Community bulletin

A Monthly Newspaper —
of, by, and for the
Syrian-Jewish Community
of Brooklyn.

VOL. IV—No. 8

NOVEMBER, 1952

BY SUBSCRIPTION

Thanksgiving Ball Features Food, Festive Costumes

By RUTH GINDI

Larry Arnez and his five piece Rhumba Band will be featured at the Thanksgiving Masquerade Ball which will take place Wednesday eve, November 26, at the Social Hall in the Center.

Tickets will be sold at \$2 per person and the cost will include a dinner plate.

Get Into Spirit

Lorraine Betesh, chairman of the Fund Raising Committee, strongly urges everyone "to get into the spirit of things by wearing a costume. Last year's Thanksgiving affair was a tremendous success both financially and socially and this year's dance promises to equal, if not surpass it."

Free masks will be given at the door and prizes for the favorite boy and girl costume will be awarded.

Center Plans Momentous Affair For New Year's Eve Celebration

Stars Hy Kraus, Sana & Amer; Food And Drink For Everyone

By HARRIET COHEN

The Center's second annual New Year's Eve Affair will feature Hy Krauss and his Rumba Band and Sana and Amer, the well-known Syrian entertainment team. According to Lou Diamond, chairman of the Center's Entertainment Committee, there will also be "all the food you can eat and all the liquor you can drink." The Young Adults part of this affair will take place on the lower floor. Tickets to this will be sold at \$20.00 per couple, with reservations required to be made in advance. The main Social hall and

the second floor will be provided for the Married Couples group. Tickets are \$15 per couple, and are on sale now.

The mistakes made at last year's affair will be taken into consideration in planning this tremendous affair. "We want to get rid of the bad taste the Young Married couples had after that event," Mr. Diamond declared.

Plenty Of Noise

With all the decorations that are planned for the Center that evening, the place will be hardly recognizable. In addition there will be plenty of noise makers to generate enough volume to really send out the old year and ring in the new.

The food will be of the highest quality and there will be plenty of it for all. There will be hors d'oeuvres and a complete selection of the finest Syrian dishes by our own caterer, Salem, who, incidently, will have a large and adequate staff of

(Continued on Page 3)

URGENT!

The success of the Center's tremendous New Year's Eve affair depends upon help from representatives of the Young Married Couples group. Members of this group are urged to get in touch with Lou Diamond, chairman of the Center's Entertainment Committee or Abe Boxerman, immediately at BE 6-6587.

Magen David's Talmud Torah Is Modernizing Its Curriculum

By MARILYN CABASSO

Yes, the Talmud Torah on 67th street is still being used. I guess you haven't heard much about it since the opening of the new Center.

I hadn't heard much about it lately and to satisfy my curiosity, (see I have it too) I went to see the building that was once the

Center of our Syrian community.

When I walked in I was surprised to see that the process of teaching was much improved. There is more of a personal interest taken toward the children which is very important today.

It was amazing to see that many interesting activities were put into the program. Aside from teaching the pupils how to read and write and converse in Hebrew, I found that they also have arts and crafts.

Israeli Songs

Israeli songs and dances are taught and stories of Jewish history, laws, and customs are told. Before each holiday or Sabbath the children work on projects such as drawing pictures, writing poems, and learn the songs of that particular holiday.

Girls classes are held three times a week. During this time the girls are taught how to prepare the Sabbath table and the laws of koshering meat, besides how to read and write Hebrew.

On my tour of classes, there

(Continued on Page 3)

Center's Program Director —NOW Where'd He Go?

By CONNIE SEROUYA

The only trouble with interviewing Gene Perkins is getting him to sit still for five minutes. The new Program Director of the Center is constantly harried —on one side by a 12-year old member of his junior group, on the other by a group leader, and cries of "Gene," "Mr. Perkins, just a minute of your time" all around.

Directing club activities for the Center would seem to be a full time job for anyone, but in addition Mr. Perkins teaches education at Teachers College, Columbia and is studying for a PhD. And he lives in The Bronx.

Active In Sports

Born in Vilna, part of Russia Poland, the 37 year old director came to this country at the age of 11, and spent his youth in Allentown, Pennsylvania. At

school he was active in Athletics—all sports—won first prize in oratory and graduated with academic honors. He did his graduate work in New York at NYU and the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Until he met Rabbis Kassin and Hecht at the Pioneer Country Club, where he was Director of Activities, Mr. Perkins had no contact at all with Syrian Jews. Having come from a Rabbinical family he was interested in all phases of Judaism and visited the Syrian Community. Recognizing his ability, community leaders who were planning the activities of the Center hired him as Program Director.

What most impressed Mr. Perkins on his first visit to the Syrian Community was the enthusiasm shown in religious ser-

(Continued on Page 3)

Almanac

Date	Lighting Of Candles
Nov. 28	4:10
Dec. 5	4:08
Dec. 12	4:08
Dec. 13-20 inclusive	
CHANUKAH	
Dec. 19	4:10
Dec. 26	4:12
Jan. 2	4:19

CENTER SPORTS

By **ABDO SULTAN**
Athletic Council Chairman

A tremendous lift has been given our community because of the terrific increase in athletic activities planned by the Athletic Council of the Center. Much has been accomplished since the addition of Marty Wolfson as Athletic Director.

During the past month the Athletic Council has rented out for the exclusive use of our members the four P.S. 205 gyms on Tuesday nights. A basketball tournament has been started which includes Young Adult boys and girls and Teen Age boys and girls. The enthusiasm has been wonderful. The last time the Center had use of the gym, more than 120 boys and girls were there and really enjoyed themselves. Even more are expected the next time. Showers are also provided. And that ain't all. The bowling fever has sprung out in our community. Tournaments have begun and trophies for highest scores are being planned. Incidentally a couple have broken 200. For the more rugged individuals, Touch Football games have been in progress for the past month and exciting games have been played in the Seth Low Park on Sundays between 11:30 and 1:30.

The Council is also planning to run a Special Sports Film night in the near future. Films such as World Series games, college basketball games and championship football games will be shown.

In addition to all these activities, the Center is planning in the near future to open our new Health Club. There is no doubt that upon completion, this Health Club, with its wet and dry steam rooms, massage rooms, exercise rooms, etc., will be a tremendous source of enjoyment, relaxation and health to our Center members. Working on this is Jack Senior, chairman, Raymond C. Sultan, Mrs. Lee Sitt, Mrs. Mal Dweck and Isidore Shamah.

Members of your Athletic Council worked hard to accomplish this and they deserve our thanks. They are Eel Cohen, basketball chairman; Jack Esses, bowling chairman; Seymour Abadi, football chairman, (assisted by Harry Esses); Steve Levy, Esther Dayan, Violet Beda, Sylvia Dweck, Adele Esses, Jack Anteby and Ezra Hamway.

The Women's Side

By **VIOLET BEDA**

The cure for men has finally been discovered... BASKETBALL, (although boxing should follow).

A few weeks ago, through the Community Center membership, we had a wonderful exhibition game between the Knicks (Dulai Shalom's team) and the All Stars (Violet Beda's team). These two teams competed in one of the most memorable games ever played in basketball. With all those fouls, it's good they were not playing against the boys. The wonderful shots of Norma Tawil, Claudie Haber, Julie Kassin and Shirley Kassin only made the game more exciting. The heavy guarding of Maggie Gindi kept the audience in stitches.

The second game of the exhibition was played between the All White team (Ruth Tawil's) and the All Blue team (Jeannette Tawil's). The game

JUNIOR GROUP

By **MRS. ROSE CABASSO**

The boys and girls, ages 5 to 12 years old, have been coming to the community house on Sundays and have been playing and creating and making themselves into groups we can all be proud of. With professional guidance and parental cooperation these children have been surprising us with their capabilities.

Exclusive!

The 7 and 8 year old girls are making stuffed dolls, beauties all of them, (both dolls and girls), and are going to send them to the children of Israel.

Mrs. Mollie Diamond had made such a tremendous impression upon the 9 year old girls when she lead their group the day of registration that they named their club the Mollie Diamond Club, after her.

The girls had planned a Hallowe'en party for Sunday, Nov. 2nd, and insisted that Mrs. Diamond supervise them. She did, and she certainly made sure that their festival was a gala one.

All the girls came in costume and one was nicer than the other. They brought their own refreshments. The party was a great success. Thanks, Mollie Diamond—your name fits you!

Forthcoming

The Sarah Bernhards and John Gilberts of the future are now in the making.

The entire Junior group will participate in a Hanukah program to be shown to the parents and their children of the community. The date is Sunday, Dec. 21st, beginning at 6 P.M.

Some groups will present a Chanukah play, which will be written by the young playwrights themselves. Others will prepare the props. Still other groups will build a Menorah.

After the program, at 8 P.M., the parents will take home and tuck the youngsters in for the night and are then invited to return to the Center to play cards. A dollar donation will entitle them to hostess service and refreshments. All are welcome, (but we urge you to buy your tickets early.)

Special: 5 and 6 Year Olds

This year we are forming group activities for our 5 and 6 year olds. Professional leaders will help the children bring out any talent or ability they may have. Such things as Arts and Crafts, Modern and Ballet dancing, Story Telling and Dramatics will be given the children on Sundays from two to five.

The twelve year old girls, all twenty-one of them, held their first group club meeting last week and many plans are in the making.

Athletics

Marty Wolfson has organized the juniors for sports. Four Gymnasiums are occupied each Tuesday night at P.S. 205. Parents with cars have graciously volunteered to drive the children home after the program. Thanks Parents.

contributed to one of the most enjoyable evenings ever spent through the Center, although I hate to think of how the girls felt the next day . . . Tuesday, November 18th begins our tournaments. As we Athletes say: COME ON, PLAY BALL!

Teenagers

By **ANNETTE SULTAN**

We need a million volts of human energy to make a success of our rally. This spectacular event being planned for the night of December 3rd, is to include refreshments, a talent show, a band, and thousands of other surprises—the admission is Free! Anyone who wishes to entertain, please contact the Center, or Jack Anteby. We are expecting all you teenagers to come and have loads of fun together. Members and non-members alike are all invited. Don't forget to bring your friends.

One of the biggest affairs of the season is the Thanksgiving Swimming Party coming right up on November 27th. We are hiring a chartered bus which is leaving at 6:15 p.m. from the Center, so transportation is no problem. The tickets to the St. George swimming pool are only \$1.25, fare included. Tickets are now available at the Center—Get yours early!

The Teen-Age Council is working hard planning for coming events. Wednesdays are Canteen Nites, and Bowling and ping-pong tournaments are in sight for willing applicants. Girls' Basketball games are already under way at the P.S. 205 gyms on Tuesday nites. Boys' tournaments are in the planning. Girls—if you're still interested in ballet dancing, please let us know.

See You At The Center!

Community Bulletin

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Ladies Auxiliary In New Drive For Membership

By PAULETTE BEYDA

The Ladies Auxiliary is embarking upon a large scale membership drive which it hopes will eventually become the entire women's division of the Center.

According to Mrs. Joyce Besh, president, "The goal of the Auxiliary will be approximately 300 new members. We hope to have a representative body of the entire community as members in order to satisfy the interests of all, pertaining not only to social and charity work but including program, social and athletic activities for women."

Mainly Fund Raising

During the past the Auxiliary has been mainly a fund raising organization. They have succeeded in raising many thousands of dollars which has greatly aided in the building and maintenance of the Center and the Yeshiva.

Credit must be given to those women who have been responsible for the success of the Auxiliary, but now with the ambition and high hope of expansion these women need your support and cooperation. All those interested please contact Mr. Boxerman at the Center, BE 6-6587 or Mrs. Ray Catton at BE 2-5992.

Unity Of Factions Aim Of Director

(Continued from Page 1)

waiters to make all those attending comfortable.

vices—he had not felt this since his boyhood in Europe, singing the songs with his father.

He likes Syrian food, but it was so new to him that on eating his first meal he had to say "Shehiyanu" (a prayer on eating a food for the first time) before each course.

His plans? For the Center—"to unite all factions of Syrian Jewish Community under one roof—to fulfill the needs and desires on the different groups and to enlighten them about other Jewish groups surrounding their immediate community — to make them aware and proud of their Jewish heritage. Specifically, he is now planning a Hanukkah pro-

Junior Ahi Ezer Schedules Affair For Thanksgiving

By MONA DWECK

A new and upcoming group has just developed in our community and we are sure you would like to know all about it. The young adults have formed a new Junior Ahi Ezer and have already held elections for officers on November 10th. The results are as follows: **President, Irwin Lezmi; Vice President, Morris Dweck; Secretary and Treasurer, Abe Tawil and Aaron Levy. Congratulations to the winners and good luck to the group.**

The first social function of the Junior Ahi Ezer will be a dance to take place Thanksgiving Eve, November 26th. Jimmy Loro and his band and other professional entertainment, including a singer, Arnie Blane and a Magician, Charles Shrem, will be there. **Everyone is welcome and the tickets are one dollar. Sounds like an exciting time for all so be sure to come. There will be a door prize—a turkey!**

Center Is Buzzin' New Year's Eve

(Continued from Page 1)

We are informed that no one need fear that the festivities will end too soon. The orchestra will play dance music until 3:00 A.M. and the Syrian performers will entertain for as long as the crowd desires.

"It will be a really elaborate, luxurious and gorgeous affair. The price is reasonable and we would like to see many people attend and enjoy themselves," Mr. Diamond stated.

ject; the dramatic group under Sam Motell is writing a play, the arts and crafts and dance groups, and even the mothers are cooperating.

Personal plans—well, he's not married yet. . . . He wants to put Magen David Community Center on the map of Jewish activities all over the country—he has the material to work with, asks only for cooperation and no hindrance.

So What's New?

By DAVID I. COHEN

Well now that the political tumult has subsided somewhat, maybe one can venture an opinion again without fear of having his liver taken out and stomped on.

Although as elections go this has been a comparatively mild one. Take for instance back in 3A when in an election fraught with excitement, I ran for blackboard monitor against Herman Schlomberger. Feeling ran so high then, that on happening to find Herman's head stuffed in the ballot box, there was a great big commotion about whether or not to go back and have a recount.

But all in all this community can take pride in the interest it has shown in this last election. In a recent poll it was found 19.3 voted the straight party ticket, 27.4 chose to split their votes, while an overwhelming 53.3 voted for a straight flush (these happened to have been polled at a recent engagement party.)

Incidentally, some of our readers are rather dubious about the veracity of the polls conducted here on occasions and no one feels more deeply wounded about this than the head of our Statistical Department, Professor Vladimir P. Krudd, himself.

We've recorded the following interview therefore to vindicate the professor's stand.

Q. Professor, your critics are insinuating that as a poll taker you'd make a good bagel bender inspector. Care to comment on that?

A. For them I am only having one comment "pfui." For their information my figures are being compiled scientifically with a super-autotronic tabulator (modern) and besides, I am also having Sam Wong my laundryman give them a final check-up on his abacus. (Otherwise, of course, I am wearing my shirts a week longer.)

Q. Would you say this community has progressed culturally these past few years?

A. No question. Figures show there's a 37.6 increase in car owners. More than 82.9 homes now have television sets. And even people who used to walk are now riding the subways.

Q. And they don't mind paying the increased fare?

A. Who's paying. They're all finding out about that broken window in back of the turnstile (Necessitating my having to wait 10.6 minutes more every morning for my turn.)

Q. What about changes in their social habits?

A. Indubitably! Take in the matter of naming children. Some years ago when a mother would stand by her second story window and holler "Abie!" every kid within a ten block radius would come galloping up. Kids nowadays just don't answer to that name anymore.

Q. You mean the name is too old fashioned?

A. I mean they just don't answer because they found out that every time they do they're told to run down to the corner for Syrian bread or something.

Thank you Professor Krudd for a most illuminating interview.

Talmud Torah Teaching Improves

(Continued from Page 1)

are six boys and two girls classes, I walked into each room and saw the method of teaching used. The teacher saw that each pupil kept up with his or her work and that it was correct.

To prove the results of the teaching I will tell you of two incidents that happened. I noticed a little boy who was running, stop all of a sudden and jump up to kiss the mezuzah which was beyond his reach.

Another little girl had a girl friend who wanted to attend Hebrew but her mother was undecided whether to send her or not. So the girl taught her friend the songs and berahas to show her mother that she had the ambition to learn.

I think (or I can say) that great progress has been made to achieve the goal of making our future generation better Jews.

Follows All Rules Of Dating Winds Up Sleeping Happily

By NOE BYLINE

Nervously she took a last look at the book. She must remember everything in order to live up to the name her great-grandfather had bestowed upon her. This was her first enterprise and she wanted to be successful.

Listening to her date loudly blow his horn for the customary fifteen minutes, Bellah Mebuleh thought that he had undergone enough nervous expectation and so, after making sure that she was wired up, her ear aid of course, she gracefully climbed into his vehicle.

Remembering Rule No. 1 on page 19, "Draw him out," she kept up a steady flow of questions while he wrestled with the wheel, as they dangerously wove in and out of heavy traffic. Being her completely feminine self, Bellah waited patiently while Joe closed all the windows, got out of the car, and walked around to open her door.

Killed Two Birds

Bellah killed two birds with one stone when she, being agreeable, said "Yes" to six kinds of candy—and wanting him to feel masculine she suggested that he carry the bag of candy and her coat.

Not wanting to appear selfish Bellah offered Joe candy at intervals of every ten minutes. Amid shushes and yells from the rear of the movie theatre, Bellah loudly crunched her buttered pop corn. It was almost impossible to keep the conversational ball rolling during the show, because some rude people behind them insisted upon interrupting her.

After the show Joe suggested a "bite." Bellah quickly agreed, since in her excitement she had skipped supper. In response to

MILESTONES

MARRIED

Lorraine Salamy.....David Safdieh
Salee Shaoul.....Edward Gabai

ENGAGED

Marcelle Schwkey
Joseph S. Harsztark
Nina Shalom.....Morris Dweck
Stella Haber.....Nat Franco
Vivian Cohen.....Henry Shalom
Claudia Adjmi.....Raymond Chira
Claudette Shalom.....Jack Grazi

BLESSED EVENTS

Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Ashkenazie.....Boy
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred I. Sutton.....Girl
Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Tawil.....Girl
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Ades.....Girl
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Jacobs.....Girl
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Kassim.....Boy
Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Ash.....Girl
Mr. & Mrs. David Dweck.....Girl
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Feinsmith.....Boy
Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Maleh.....Boy
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Harary.....Boy
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Haber.....Boy
Mr. & Mrs. Simon Cohen.....Boy

BAR MITZVAH

Robert Elbaz—Son of Mr. & Mrs. Morris Elbaz

the quells of her stomach, she bit into a hearty meal.

After refusing to "talk" to him for a few minutes, (she did not want him to think he could take liberties with her), Bellah happily went to bed—she had followed all the rules of "How To Be a Successful Date."

THIS AND THAT

By EENIE, MEENIE, MINIE and MOE

Warmed Over Stuff: Conforming to the characteristic nature of a military group, a platoon of the foreign legion—some twelve of them—descended upon the City Center recently when the opera "La Boheme" was presented there . . . we have it on good authority that the platoon so effectively infiltrated the audience, that there was hardly a section of the opera house which did not have at least one legionaire . . . won't be long before this group will go out in regimental force . . . look out New York! . . . And like we were saying, the guy with the Cadillac will be out of circulation. Congratulations, Raymond and Claudie. . . . Though somewhat belated—and this corner is particularly chagrined—we'd like to express our best wishes to Ralph and Barbara (nee Mathalon) Cohen for a successful marriage . . . well, another C.B. staff member embarks on a voyage over the seas of matrimony. The over-worked editor cries out plaintively "That's the twelfth staff member we've 'lost' in less than two years". . . to which we say, Join the C.B. and—get married!

Hot Off The Griddle: At Happy Labaton's engagement party (hey!—this is getting to sound like "Married and Engaged" column) there was observed a sweet young miss. She's quite pretty, boys, so better hurry. . . . Cute couples seen around lately, D.S. and F.A., P.B. and M.G., and—no kidding—N.H. and ?? . . . By the way, Norman, do you find whatsernamagain a good dancer or is it because—? (Maybe he'll be giving us something to elaborate on later, we hope.)

Simple Nonsense: We hear that J.D. has been nominated as the best dancer of the month. . . . We hear a captain, namely A.S. had his team fist-fighting to defend him after a basketball game on East Third—what sportsmanship and team-work, hmmm. . . . We hear (we've been hearing a lot of things lately, haven't we?) some joker (?) took a pair of roller skates and left a note in it's place. Hey, joker, that's not very nice—so make sure you get in touch with Joe Maleh, eh? . . . Say, fellers, take a good tip from A.M. and get your reservations for the New Year's Affair at the Center NOW . . . smart move A.M.

Community bulletin

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An Open Letter

Brothers and Sisters!

A strange famine has come over tens of thousands of our brethren in the Moslem lands—a famine for the printed word of G-d!

Yes, in addition to the lamentable physical and economic conditions of our brothers in Syria, Iran, Iraq, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Libya, they are also afflicted by the lack of Hebrew sacred books, like Gemaroth, Mishnayoith, etc., which depresses yet more their spirits and darkens their horizons.

Even those of our brethren who have succeeded in coming into Israel have not been spared this difficulty: in the many Camps, Maabaroth and Colonies of Jews or Oriental countries the heart-rending cry is heard: "GIVE US SACRED BOOKS TO LEARN." Here, in Israel, they share the lot of the rest of religious Jews whose demand for such books goes unanswered because of the scarcity of paper, among other reasons.

That does not mean that we want you to empty your own bookcases or the shelves of your synagogue. Rather we are sending new Mishnayoith and Gemaroth.

Hundreds of sets have already been shipped to Israel and to the various Sefardic organizations in the Moslem lands.

It can readily be understood that that was only a modest beginning, for ONE MILLION CHILDREN AND ADULTS have to be supplied with the necessary sacred Hebrew books.

We are therefore appealing to you in the name of your brethren to help the committee in its meritorious and holy task. With your contribution you will participate in bringing in a ray of sunshine into the otherwise gloomy existence of tens of thousands of Jewish families in Moslem countries as well as in Israel. With your donation you will help to strengthen the spirit of traditional Judaism in those countries.

A contribution of \$25.00 will buy a complete set of Mishnayoith, of 12 volumes, containing all the commentaries published up to date.

A contribution of \$3.00 will buy a Gemara, a reproduction of the famous Talmud published in Vilna, Poland.

Every book purchased will have the purchaser's name inscribed thereon, and a donor can even name the institution to which he wants the books or book sent.

We know you have always responded generously to the call of your brethren and we are sure you won't fail them this time either.

RABBI JACOB KASSIN

Magen David Congregation

RABBI ABRAHAM HECHT

Magen David Community Center

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The Need Is Great

We are reprinting this letter, as it is a very recent request:

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Att: Rabbi Cutler

Dear Sir:

We received a letter from Casablanca in which they enclose a list of books they need very badly. Enclosed you will find a copy of same. Please advise me if you think it is possible for you to get them for me.

Sincerely yours,

Isaac Shalom

is:lh
enc.

Here is a copy of the letter sent to Mr. Shalom by

Molse J. Lasry

44 Rue Jean Jaures

Casablanca, Morocco

October 23, 1952

OUR NEEDS NOW

1. BOOKS—I acknowledge with thanks receipts of the 150 Gemarot you sent us.* We now badly need:

A) We are still waiting for the books from Teheran.

Besides this here is what we need:

B) 500 Kitsour Shoulhan Arouk

C) 400 Michnaioit

D) More Gemarot of the same Messelktot you sent

E) Mr. Monsonego asks if it is possible to get Michna Brouna

2. TEACHERS' LIBRARY

We are organizing a library for teachers and advanced students. Mr. Monsonego asks for the following basic books:

A) 6 Mikraot Gedolot (all Tanach)

B) 6 Michnaioit (Vilna)

C) 1 Chass (Vilna) 24 volumes

D) 10 Kitsour Shoulhan Arouk with the following commentaries: Misgeret Hashoulhan and Lehem Panim.

E) 5 Midrash Raba

F) 5 Midrash Tanhouma

G) Books of Moussar such as Tenouat Hamoussar, Or Israel, etc.

* These Gemoras were supplied by our office.

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