

Rabbi's Message

As this dinner takes place between Purim and Pesach, it is a time when thoughts often turn to the challenges that the Jewish people have faced and the Nissim that have been sent to protect and redeem us. These Nissim include the hidden miracles of Purim as well as the open ones of Pesach. As great as they were and are, there is little we can do to bring them about; yes we can do T'shuva and pray, but at the end of the day these are all Divine decisions which are beyond our understanding. But each of these two Chagim has another aspect as well, an aspect that is fully in human control. It is the fact that at each of these most trying times for our people there were individuals, some famous and others not, who stood up and decided to make a difference for their people. In some cases they realized that they were doing something unique or special, while in other cases they regarded their acts as small or natural, but in all cases they made a difference. Without acts of great devotion from Mordechai and Esther there would have been no Purim, and without the actions of many in Egypt there would not have been redemption from slavery. So if one of the themes of these Chagim is to appreciate the Divine protection we are given, another one is to realize just how much difference each of us can make.

It is for this reason that the Shul is so privileged in being able to honor Rachel and Micah Katz, a couple who understand what it means to make a difference. They have and continue to serve this community in so many ways. Whether on the ambulance squad, ASHAR or the Shul and even in the professions they have pursued, they are looking for ways to help, looking for ways to make the community a better place for all. Fortunately this willingness to get involved and make a difference is not limited to organizations and institutions, as Rachel and Micah are involved in helping make the lives of a diverse group of individuals better, deeper and more Jewishly committed.

We are indeed fortunate to be able to count Rachel & Micah as our friends, and take great pleasure in honoring them at this dinner.

Rabbi Asher Bush