



## Explaining the Unexplainable



By Rabbi Melvin Granatstein

Sefer B'reshit is noteworthy for its introduction of names for God. In Sefer Sh'mot, yet one more name is introduced and it is presented in the context of Moshe's question to God:- "When I say that the God of your fathers sent me to you and they respond saying to me "What is his name?" – what shall I tell them?"

God responds Eh-yeh Asher Eh-yeh which is usually translated as "I am that I am." This cryptic formula is the subject of many interpretations but the Rashbam notes that the tetragrammaton is a third person form of Eh-yeh. If Eh-yeh constitutes God's announcement of "I am", the tetragrammaton is then asserting "He is". Whatever else may be happening here, the sacred four letter name that we dare not pronounce, is a third person characterization of God's existence.

Rav Meir Simcha of D'vinsk notes that Eh-yeh Asher Eh-yeh has the status of a name of God. We may pronounce this name in an appropriate context – but once written as a Divine name, it may not be erased. Now in this name, God is announcing his existence directly in the first person. With the tetragrammaton, human beings are announcing God's being in the third person. With reference to the tetragrammaton the Halacha restricts us further, forbidding its pronouncement except in the context of the Divine Service in the Beit Ha-Mikdash.

Shouldn't God's self pronouncement of Eh-yeh be the more sacred evocation? Why is it permissible to pronounce this first person name if it is forbidden to pronounce the third person form of the name?

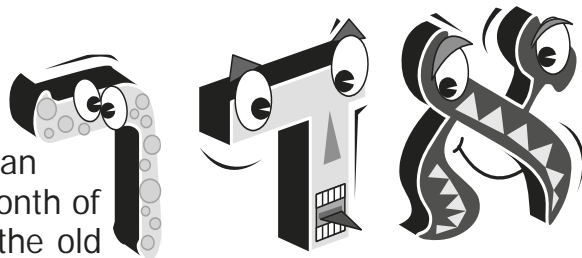
Rav Meir Simcha suggests that the difference lies in the nature of the first person assertion in contrast to a third person assertion.

With Eh-yeh, God is announcing his existence to humanity. As Jewish thought asserts, God certainly knows his own nature. But no one else can understand anything of God's being. We know God only to the degree that God reveals his will to us. As Rambam explains in several places, a human being can know only God's actions but God's essence cannot be known even by Moshe himself. When God announces Eh-yeh, it is his self pronouncement and when we recall that pronouncement with appropriate reverence we are certainly honoring his name. The third person pronouncement is a human denotation of the unknowable God. Circumspection and humility places that denotation beyond human articulation. It suffices that we copy that name in a Sefer Torah with all due trepidation and that we step away from a recitation of that Divinity that is beyond our grasp.



# ADAR HARISHON

This Hebrew year, 5768 is a leap year just as the secular year is a leap year. On the Hebrew leap year an entire month is added and we always add an extra month of Adar to the calendar: - essentially we are extending the old year in to a thirteenth month, following the Torah's injunction to observe the month of Nisan as the first month of the twelve month year.



If there are two Adars, on which month do we celebrate Purim? In principle we observe two Purims - one in Adar Rishon and one in Adar Sheini. On both of these Purims we do not say Tachanun and do not eulogize the deceased.

However, the Talmud rules that the positive Mitsvot of Purim are to be observed only on the Purim of the second Adar in order to join the celebration of the deliverance of Purim to the deliverance of Pesach one month later (הליל הגדול הגדול). The Purim of Adar Rishon received the appellation of Purim Katan (minor Purim).

## IN SYMPATHY MAZEL TOV

המקום ינחם ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים.

The congregation would like to extend its heartfelt condolences

To Bennet Yanowitz on the loss of his sister, Ruth.

To Irv & Lynne Berliner and family on the loss of Lynne's father, Earl Stovsky, who passed away on December 24th.

To Mark & Esther Ellen on the loss of Esther's mother, Miriam Sasson, in Israel.

To Nathan & Betty Berliner on the loss of their daughter, Sherry Dimarsky in Chicago, and to Irv & Lynne Berliner on the loss of his sister who passed away on January 7th.

To the family of Gita Kalus, who passed away on January 13th.

To Dr. Moshe Lovinger & Dr. Robyn Fisher on their recent marriage, and to his parents Henry & Gisele Lovinger.

To Batya Zelman on her Bat Mitzvah, to parents Yitzhak and Shelly Zelman, and to grandparents Sam & Alice Mendelovic.

To Andrew & Lisa Zashin on the birth of a girl, Alexandra Margolit.

To Joel & Johanna Ratner on the birth of a girl, Sarah Yael.

To Yoel & Marcia Anouchi on the engagement of their daughter Ariella to Baruch Ganz, son of David & Rivka Ganz of Philadelphia.

To Earl & Rachel Lefkovitz on the engagement of their daughter Judy to Ariel Tavor, son of Ziv & Esther Tavor of New York.

To Mark & Ellie Shoag on the birth of a grandson, Yakov Chaim, born to Danny & Lindsay Shoag.

### The REEL Jewish Experience

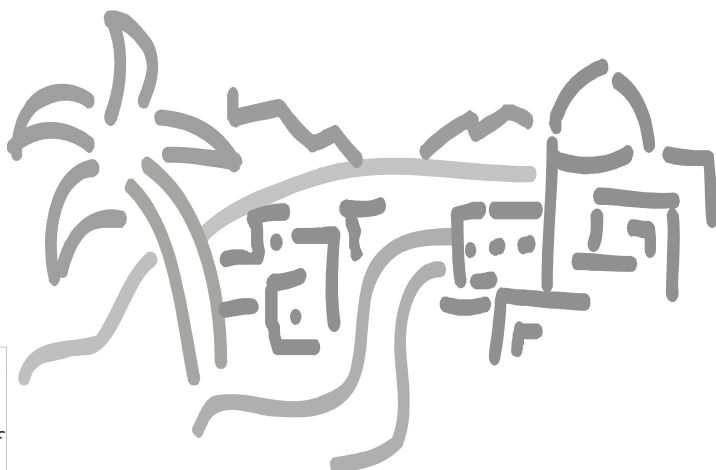
Feb. 16, 8:00 PM - "First Basket"

Co-sponsored by FMS Athletic Department

### VEGAS NIGHT UPDATE...

Our Fabulous Vegas Night is being rescheduled to an early summer date. More details coming soon.

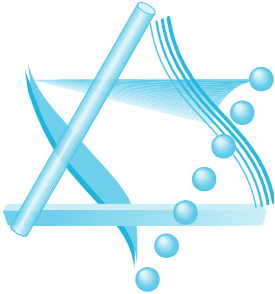
*The family of Cynthia Uvlin wishes to thank the congregation for their support, donations, meals and condolence calls in memory of Cynthia's sister, Charlotte Oratz.*



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**Office Hours:**

Monday – Thursday  
9:30 am – 5:00 pm  
Friday  
9:30 am – 3:00 pm



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**FEB-MAR 2008**  
**ADAR I 5768**

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# DONATIONS

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*We would like to thank the following for their generous contributions to our Synagogue.*

**In Memory Of:**

**Rose Bellell:** Liz Tuly; Berthja Weider

**Ruth Yanowitz:** Lili Markowitz

**Channah Rosenberg:** Liz Tuly

**Sam Feig:** His Family

**Gita Kalus:** Larry & Frieda Feuer

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Susan & Sam Shvartz; Olga Hertz; Liz Tuly

**Nathan & Betty Berliner's daughter, Sherry Dimarsky:** Dr. Herschel & Sheila Pearl Pickholtz

**In Honor Of:**

**The birth of Caroline & Eliav Sharvit's son:** Ivan Goldberg

**Green Road Synagogue's support & welcoming of Ruach Home:** Chuck & Pat Mintz

**Ari Jaffe's installation:** Kurt & Myrna Bloch

**Dr. Moshe Lovinger & Dr. Robyn Fisher on their upcoming marriage:** Vicki & Bernard  
Schmelzer

**Sarah Radzeli's birthday:** Rose Epstein

**Kiddush:**

**January 5:** By Yitzhak & Shelly Zelman in honor of their daughter Batya's Bat Mitzvah.

**January 19:** By Andrew & Lisa Zashin in honor of their daughter Alexandra Margolit's birth.

**January 26:** By Mark & Ellie Shoag in honor of the birth of their grandson, Yakov Chaim, and  
by Moshe Lovinger in honor of his Auf Ruf.

**Seudah Shl ishit:**

**January 5:** By Joe & Nan Hecht in memory of Nan's parents, Joe & Gussie Kleinman, on the  
occasion of their Yahrzeits.

**January 12:** By Dr. Allen & Carol Seftel in memory of Allen's mother, Betty Seftel, on the  
occasion of her Yahrzeit.

**January 19:** By Igor & Tatyana Spira in memory of Igor's mother Chaya Sarah Spira, on the  
occasion of her Yahrzeit.

**February 2:** By Debbie & Shelly Senders and family on the occasion of the Yahrzeit of  
Shelly's mother Peppy Senders.



# MONTHLY CALENDAR

Wed.-Thurs., February 6-7 - **Rosh Chodesh Adar I**

**\*\* Please Note Time Change \*\***

Weekday Morning Services..... 6:30 a.m.

Friday, February 8

Candle Lighting..... 5:33 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat..... 5:40 p.m.

Saturday, February 9

## Parshat Terumah

Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 4:20 p.m.

First Grade Parsha Club..... 4:50 p.m.

Mincha..... 5:20 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat..... 6:32 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services..... 8:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Services..... 6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services..... 5:35 p.m.

Sunday, February 10

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text

At Torat Tzion Kollel..... 9:15 a.m.

**Rabbi Granatstein's monthly seminar - Sefer B'reishit**

At his house..... 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 13

Executive Committee Meeting..... 8:00 p.m.

Friday, February 15

Candle Lighting..... 5:42 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat..... 5:45 p.m.

Saturday, February 16

## Parshat Tetsaveh

Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 4:30 p.m.

First Grade Parsha Club..... 5:00 p.m.

Mincha..... 5:30 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat..... 6:41 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services..... 8:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Services..... 6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services..... 5:45 p.m.

Saturday Night, February 16 **The REEL Jewish Experience**

"First Basket"..... 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 17

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text

At Torat Tzion Kollel..... 9:15 a.m.

## Wednesday, February 20 - Purim Katan

Friday, February 22

Candle Lighting..... 5:50 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat..... 5:55 p.m.

Saturday, February 23

## Parshat Ki Tisa

Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 4:40 p.m.

First Grade Parsha Club..... 5:10 p.m.

Mincha..... 5:40 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat..... 6:49 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services..... 8:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Services..... 6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services..... 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 24

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text

At Torat Tzion Kollel..... 9:15 a.m.

Friday, February 29

Candle Lighting..... 5:58 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat..... 6:05 p.m.

Saturday, March 1

## Parshat VaYakhel

Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 4:45 p.m.

First Grade Parsha Club..... 5:15 p.m.

Mincha..... 5:45 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat..... 6:57 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services..... 8:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Services..... 6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services..... 6:10 p.m.

Sunday, March 2

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text

At Torat Tzion Kollel..... 9:15 a.m.

Friday, March 7 - **Rosh Chodesh Adar II**

**\*\* Please Note Time Change \*\***

Weekday Morning Services..... 6:30 a.m.

## DID YOU KNOW?

You can sponsor a Kiddush for the entire congregation starting at \$400, or with Cholent at \$1000? You can team up with friends who have birthdays or Yahrzeits around the same time and sponsor together. Every family event is enhanced when shared with the Shul. To schedule a Kiddush or inquire about dates, call the office at 216-381-4757 or email



Jane@GreenRoadSynagogue.org

## VOLUNTEER AT GREEN ROAD!

We have many exciting events coming up including our Purim Party, The REEL Jewish Experience, Vegas Night, and more! We also have ongoing programming including our Shabbat groups that could use an extra hand. If you would like to help out at Shul, please contact David at 216-381-4757 or David@GreenRoadSynagogue.org



## MINYAN EMERGENCY!

We are calling on all men in our membership to commit to coming to one morning or evening Minyan each week. There are days where we barely have 10. Once already this winter we did not have a Minyan. If you can, please try to come at least once during the week to support our Minyanim, the backbone of our Shul.