

The Kustanowitz Kronikle

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Special Purim Edition

March 16, 2014

“JUDAICARE” PROGRAM PLANNED TO ENSURE THAT ALL JEWS HAVE SYNAGOGUE MEMBERSHIP

*“If You Like Your Synagogue, You Can Keep Your Synagogue”
Penalties For Non-Participation, Surcharges For Excess Kvetching, Drinking*

Special to The Kustanowitz Kronikle

FAIRLAWN, March 16— The Pew survey of U. S. Jews released last October has resulted in an unprecedented synagogue membership initiative undertaken by the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations (COPOMCOPOMJO).

The survey showed that less than one-third of American Jews say they belong to a synagogue. Twenty-three percent of U.S. Jews say they attend synagogue at least once or twice a month. Forty-six percent of Jewish households report that they pay dues to a synagogue or temple in the area, and 76 percent report attending services at least on the High Holidays and some as often as weekly.

In order to increase these numbers and ensure that all Jews have synagogue membership, the Jewish leaders are implementing the Affordable Synagogue Membership Plan (ASMP), also known as Judaicare. The plan will enroll members through an exchange, enabling all Jews to choose the membership plan that best suits them. Participants must choose a plan before Rosh Hashanah, when the price of their admission to services will double if they are not listed on the membership rolls.

This penalty, or tax, or mandate, will be offset by subsidies in cases of hardship, although so far nobody has any idea where the money to pay the subsidies will come from. When they log on to the website www.judaicare.org, they will have a choice of affiliating with a Haredi, Yeshivish, Orthodox, Modern Orthodox, Sephardic, Conservadox, Flexidox, Conservative, Reformative, Reform, or Reconstructionist congregation. There will be no penalty for switching from a pre-existing denominational affiliation to a new one.

In each region there will be a choice of plans, but because COPOMCOPOMJO is instituting minimum standards for synagogue services and related programs, the cost of all membership plans is expected to increase significantly. Enrollees may find that the cost of hot kiddushes with chulent, kugel, sushi, and single malt scotch in every synagogue and support of mikvah,

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Ultra-Orthodox Groups Unite, Create New Super Kashrut Agency



FAIRLAWN, March 16— A coalition of Ultra-Orthodox sects, disappointed with the Orthodox Union (OU) decision to permit the consumption of quinoa on Passover, have formed their own agency, the Ultra-Orthodox Union, to supervise kashrut on their terms (Everything is forbidden including foods with competing hechshers.)

The group has designed their own symbol to place on approved products. The symbol consists of the traditional OU surrounded by a giant letter U (for Ultra.) The inner OU has two dots over the U to suggest eyes that will be watching you whenever you shop in a supermarket. Be sure to look for the new symbol the next time you go shopping. You can be sure that it will be looking at you.

It's Movie Awards Time! The Kronikle Presents:



THE KUSTANOWITZ KIDS' PICKS FOR THE 2013 SILVER GRAGGER MOVIE AWARDS

Complete coverage on page 2

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**It's Movie Awards Time! The Kronikle Presents:
THE KUSTANOWITZ KIDS' PICKS
FOR THE 2013 SILVER GRAGGERS**

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Golden Globes and the Oscars were a good warm-up act. Now, the Kronikle presents its own Silver Gragger Awards for the outstanding film achievements of 2013.



GRAVITY: On Friday night in outer space, a Jewish astronaut spends three hours trying to pour grape juice into a kiddush cup.

12 YEARS A SLAVE: On the eve of her Bat Mitzvah, a girl is devastated to learn that "becoming a young woman" does not mean she'll be moving out of her controlling parents' house.

CATCHING FIRE: When the twisted wicks of the Havdalah

candle refuse to ignite, one girl has the secret of obtaining a flame.

THE LE(mypeople)GO MOVIE: For Jews escaping Egypt, everything is awesome.

FROZEN: Tales from the womens' section of a Florida shul during the High Holidays, as the women huddle together for warmth and figure out how to signal the Shabbos goy to turn down the air conditioner.

BEFORE MIDNIGHT: A frum couple meets over breakfast and is engaged shortly after dinner.

ENOUGH SAID: At the Shabbat dinner table, children test their parents' patience by humming and grunting complete sentences after washing their hands but before making Motzi.

MONSTERS UNIVERSITY: The staff of an ultra-Orthodox Yeshiva high school goes ballistic when they learn that one of their students will be attending a secular college.

DALLAS BUYERS CLUB: One desperate Jew, told that there would be no matzah available for his Texas town, takes measures into his own hands by creating the most unleavened smuggling ring in history.

ALL IS LOST: Hopelessly drunk after the fourth cup of wine, a family's patriarch overreacts to the disappearance of the Afikoman.

HER: A grandmother doesn't even pretend to remember the name of her 17th grandchild.

THE LOAN ARRANGER: A synagogue's treasurer saves the day when he calls on his Wall Street connections to guarantee a multimillion dollar loan for construction of a mikvah and swimming pool in the new building extension.

NOW YOU SEE ME: A Kohen peeks out from behind his tallit and plays hide and seek with congregation members who violate the custom of averting their eyes during the Priestly Blessing.

BAD GRANDPA: The synagogue's candy man is relieved of his duties when the children he supplies with lollipops discover that they don't have an accepted hashgacha.

**JUDAICARE TO COVER
ALL SYNAGOGUE MEMBERSHIPS**

(Continued from page 1)

Judaicare.org Find a Synagogue Log in Yiddish

Enroll now in Judaicare

SEE PLANS BEFORE I APPLY

APPLY NOW FOR SYNAGOGUE MEMBERSHIP

SEE STORIES SHARE AND CONNECT

may experience sticker shock when they see the actual cost of membership.

Congregants will not be required to change their membership. COPOMCOPOMJO President Moishe Kapoier declared that "If you like your synagogue, you can keep your synagogue." But the cost of all memberships is likely to rise because younger people, who are not used to paying dues, may decide it's more economical for them to pay double for High Holiday seats rather than pay a high membership fee for services that they don't plan to use.

If younger people don't sign up in the large numbers needed to keep Judaicare solvent, leaders are considering the imposition of surcharges on the membership plans of congregants who exceed usage of available resources (see chart below.)

**AFFORDABLE SYNAGOGUE
MEMBERSHIP PLAN (Judaicare)**

**Minimum Requirements
For Participating Synagogues**

- Mikvah, Pool and Spa
- Hot Kiddush Every Shabbat with Chulent, Kugel, Sushi, and Single Malt Scotch
- Junior Congregation Services
- Synagogue Library
- Scholar-in-Residence Program

Surcharges to Apply For

- Excessive Scotch Drinking
- Excessive Mikvah Use
- Excessive Kvetching Over Rabbi's Sermon and Cantor's Choice of Melodies
- Excessive Posturing at Board Meetings

Glitches continue to occur during the rollout of the system. Individual members who have logged onto the website are finding that when they try to sign up for membership in their own synagogue which they were assured they could keep, they are being told that the only shuls available are Temple Ohev Kessef and Congregation Shomrei Negiah, both located in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn.

At press time, neither the rabbis of these two synagogues nor the administrators of Judaicare could be reached for comment.