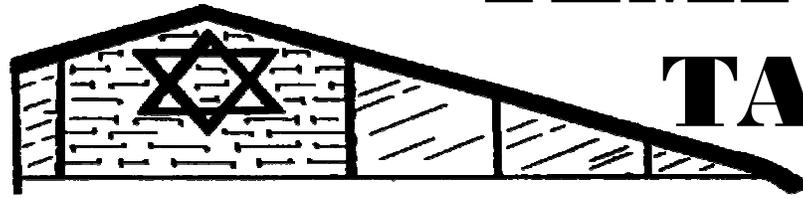




TEMPLE TALK



Little Neck Jewish Center
LNJC.org

Vol 7 Issue 8
April 2011

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Happy Passover

Moses said to Pharaoh:

"Let my people go so that we may serve our G-d."

Today we don't need to ask Pharaoh. All we need to do is come to the synagogue! On this Festival of Freedom, let us exercise our freedom to be Jewish and join together for services on Passover.

The First Day of Passover Tuesday, April 19 at 9:15 a.m.

The morning after the first seder is a great time to come to synagogue to celebrate our freedom. A special prayer for dew, the Hallel Psalms, reading from two Torah scrolls and chanting the prayers to the festival melodies all add up to a true expression of joy in the freedom to be Jewish.

The Seventh Day of Passover Monday, April 25 at 9:15 a.m.

On this day with a special reading from the Torah we relive the experience of the parting of the Sea of Reeds. With this day we begin the crescendo with which we end the week of Passover.

Erev Eighth Day of Passover Monday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m. Yizkor Service at 8:00 p.m.

We begin the concluding day of the Festival of Pesach at night. For those who are not able to come for Yizkor during the day we will be conducting an alternative Yizkor service on this night.

The Second Day of Passover Wednesday, April 20 at 9:15 a.m.

How fortunate we are to have a second chance to celebrate our Freedom by gathering to pray, study Torah and eat macaroons at the beginning of the festival.

The Eighth Day of Passover Tuesday, April 26 at 9:15 a.m. Yizkor Service at 11:15 a.m.

We conclude the Festival of Pesach with songs and prayer! On this day we take time to recall our loved ones who are no longer with us.

Erev Seventh Day of Passover Sunday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m.



OUR NEW WEBSITE IS UP!

VISIT US AT

WWW.LNJC.ORG

**Don't Forget to Sell Your Chametz!
See Page 8 for a Mechirat Chametz form
and other Passover News.**

Presidential Matters



No question about it – there are lots of activities for all age groups at Little Neck Jewish Center. Now is the time to join your friends and neighbors and take advantage of some great initiatives, both at our synagogue as well as through locally sponsored programs open to our membership.

As you know, demographics in our area have made our work more challenging in terms of attracting new families. No problem! We have addressed this by providing exceptional programming right at our shul. Our *Friday Night Live* A Capella Musical Kabbalat Shabbat has drawn large numbers, *birthday and anniversary recognition services* have been welcomed enthusiastically, and our *Lunch and Learn* monthly seminar following Kiddush has provided congregants with an opportunity to study the week's Torah portion with the Rabbi. These programs, each different in terms of its focus, make Little Neck Jewish Center the place to be!

Led by the encouragement of Rabbi Yaffe, I was joined by several LNJC members at two recent METNY District sponsored programs. The first was hosted jointly by Little Neck and Lake Success Jewish Center and featured Dr. Joshua Kulp, co-founder of the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. Dr. Kulp, visiting New York as part of the United Synagogue's Scholar in Residence Program, provided insights into the Passover Haggadah.

The second program was a Synagogue Leadership Conference, hosted at the Israel Center of Conservative Judaism, in Flushing. Representing LNJC along with the Rabbi and myself were Neville Grusd, Janet and Irwin Tobin, and Lysa Lopater. The program featured workshops designed to assist temple leadership with strategies to inspire greater participation of membership, how to get members to embrace change, as well as sessions focusing on religious education, how synagogues use music to enliven services, merging at the right time, and fundraising in today's world.

The Leadership Conference was especially worthwhile for me as within the month we will be hosting our first meeting of the synagogue's Strategic Planning Committee. I have identified a cross section of members who will examine every facet of our shul's operation as we plan to go from "good to great." Respected past president Neil Garfinkel has been selected to chair this critical project. I have also asked Rabbi Yaffe to play a leading role on this committee as lay leadership moves on, but it is the Rabbi who will provide the cohesion as the synagogue's chief change agent. I do not believe anyone could question the dramatic positive changes that have taken place in six months.

Whether at a Friday night service, the traditional Saturday Shabbat, a holiday activity, or a special program, I sincerely hope you will join us "at the table." We welcome new faces. I look forward to greeting you at temple – I know you will enjoy the *new* Little Neck Jewish Center!

SAVE THE DATE ! Sunday, May 22

ב"ה

Little Neck Jewish Center
Journal Dinner Dance
You are invited to join us

Honoring
Cantor Joshua Shron
Larry Kaplan Award

Dawn Singer
Young Leadership Award

Harriet Spivack
Sisterhood's Elaine Bruckenthal
Eishet Chayil Award

Sunday, May 22, 2011
Five O'clock in the evening

Temple Beth El
5 Old Mill Road
Great Neck, NY 11023

Business Attire

Shabbat Candle Lighting

Apr. 1	7:02 p.m.	Apr. 8	7:09 p.m.
Apr. 15	7:17 p.m.	Apr. 22	7:24 p.m.
Apr. 29	7:31 p.m.		

Please Note:

Cantor Shron will be with us for Shabbat services this month on April 1&2 and April 29&30.

April Schedule of Services

Fri., April 1	Nosh & Schmooze A Capella Musical Erev Shabbat Service	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
Sat., April 2	Shabbat HaChodesh Bar Mitzvah: Jonathan Schindler Jr. Congregation Mincha/Seudah Shelishit	9:15 a.m. 10:15 a.m. 5:30 p.m.
Sun., April 3	Morning Minyan	8:45 a.m.
Fri., April 8	Nosh & Schmooze Erev Shabbat Service	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
Sat., April 9	Shabbat Shacharit Jr. Congregation	9:15 a.m. 10:15 a.m.
Sun., April 10	Morning Minyan	8:45 a.m.
Fri., April 15	Shabbat Evening Service Birthdays & Anniversaries Celebrated	8:00 p.m.
Sat., April 16	Shabbat Ha Gadol Jr. Congregation Mincha/Seudah Shelishit	9:15 a.m. 10:15 a.m. 5:30 p.m.
Sun., April 17	Morning Minyan	8:45 a.m.
Mon., April 18	Siyyum Ha Bechorim	6:30 a.m.
Tues., April 19	Pesach Services Day 1	9:15 a.m.
Wed., April 20	Pesach Services Day 2	9:15 a.m.
Fri., April 22	Nosh & Schmooze Erev Shabbat Service	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
Sat., April 23	Shabbat Chol HaMoed Mincha/Seudah Shelishit	9:15 a.m. 5:30 p.m.
Sun., April 24	Morning Minyan Mincha/Maariv	8:45 a.m. 7:30 p.m.
Mon., April 25	Pesach Services Day 7 Minchah/Maariv Yizkor	9:15 a.m. 7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Tues., April 26	Pesach Services Day 8 Yizkor	9:15 a.m. 11:15 a.m.
Fri., April 29	Nosh & Schmooze Erev Shabbat Service	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
Sat., April 30	Shacharit Aufruf: Elissa Lapide & Daniel Fein Jr. Congregation Mincha/Seudah Shelishit	9:15 a.m. 10:15 a.m. 5:30 p.m.

From the Rabbi



Pesach is almost here and it is time to get the leaven out! From 10:20 a.m. on Monday, April 18th, until Tuesday April 26th at 8:23 p.m. it is forbidden for Jews to eat, own or derive benefit from chametz. Chametz is any food or beverage that contains wheat, barley, oat, spelt or rye that has come into contact with moisture and allowed to leaven or ferment. It is written in the book of Exodus, "You shall observe the feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this day I brought your ranks out of the land of Egypt...No leaven (chametz) shall be found in your homes for seven days. For whoever eats what is leavened that person shall be cut off from the community of Israel."

The Rabbis identified leaven with the evil inclination, the urge that gives rise to wrong-doing. Philo, the great philosopher once said, "Just as leaven is banned because it is puffed up, we must ban self righteousness that puffs us up with false pride," by removing the leaven from our homes and from our lives, we symbolically express our desire to liberate ourselves from the corrupting influences which make us subservient to our passions and evil impulses. Thus, Pesach is not only a time to recall and celebrate our freedom from Egyptian bondage, but it is also a time to rejoice in our ability to free ourselves of those elements from within us that enslave.

There are four steps to follow for the complete removal of chametz prior to Pesach. The first step is Bedikat Chametz, the ceremonial search for leaven. The search is conducted by the light of a candle or a flashlight on the night before Pesach. By this time the house should have been thoroughly cleaned and little piles of chametz placed around the house to be found during the search. When Bedikat Chametz has been completed the following formula is recited: "May all leaven in my possession which I have not seen or removed be regarded as mere dust of the earth." this is the second step in the removal of chametz and is called Bitul Chametz. The third step is Biur Chametz, the burning of chametz. On the morning of Erev Pesach it is customary to burn the chametz that was found during Bedikat Chametz. The fourth and final step in getting the leaven out is Mechirat Chametz, the selling of chametz. In order to prevent financial hardship from having to get rid of large amounts of chametz, the rabbis created a way for us to symbolically sell any chametz that is still in our possession so that we can fulfill the requirement of not owning chametz during Pesach. After Pesach the chametz is repurchased and permissible to use. See page 8 for a form to fill out that will enable me to sell your chametz prior to Pesach.

The careful observance of the laws regarding chametz on Pesach adds a very special dimension to our live by reminding us that we can substitute humility for the arrogance within ourselves and that part of the experience of Pesach is to work on refining our moral character. May this Pesach be a liberating experience for all of us.

With best wishes for a Chag Kasher v'Sameach,

Rabbi Gordon Yaffe



Message from Cantor Joshua Shron

As I prepare to write to you this month in advance of the joyous holiday of Passover, I find myself somewhat distracted. As we get ready to celebrate the holiday of freedom, I feel helpless and frightened. As we gather with family and friends for the seder night, known as "leil shimurim" (loosely translated, "a night when we are protected"), I wonder how well-protected we really are. I cannot get the recent images out of my mind.

No doubt you've heard the story. Shabbat evening, Friday, March 11. The Fogel family of Itamar, Israel, has enjoyed a typical Shabbat dinner, and most members of the family have retired to their beds. At approximately 10:30 pm, terrorists break into the home and brutally massacre parents Udi and Ruth along with three of the couple's six children: Yoav, 11, Elad, 4 and Hadas, 3 months. Most of the slain family members were murdered while sleeping in bed. Gruesome photos of the attack have circulated around the internet. I wish I hadn't looked.

This one hit home. How can I not draw comparisons to my own family? How can I not imagine a serene Shabbat evening in my own home with my children, similar to the one enjoyed by the Fogels on the night of their murder? If it happened to them...why can't it happen to us? A friend living in Israel may have put it best in a recent Facebook status update, writing: "Another night of kids that are scared to go to sleep 'cuz terrorists might come and slit their throats." There are no words.

Through darkness and despair, how might we find comfort? Perhaps in the words of the Hagaddah: "...For not just one rose against us to annihilate us, but in every generation there are those who rise to annihilate us. And the Holy One Blessed is He saves us from their hands." Our sorrow is, unfortunately, nothing new. From Pharaoh to Haman to Hitler to Ahmadinejad - our enemies have relentlessly plotted the destruction of the Jewish people. And amazingly, they've FAILED.

We were slaves in Egypt, and God took us out with an outstretched hand. Once again in 2011, this is the miracle of Passover. We grieve, we cry, we fear for our future...but we know with certainty that our enemies will not prevail. *Am Yisrael Chai!*

This Passover, as you celebrate freedom with family and friends, please take a few moments to think of Udi, Ruth, Yoav, Elad and Hadas...and of the three surviving children, Tamar (12), Ro'i (8) and Yishai (2) - for whom Passover will never be the same. And as you sing "next year in Jerusalem" at the conclusion of the seder, remember those who have given their lives, and continue to do so, for the sake of our cherished homeland.

God has brought us from darkness to light, from tragedy to celebration, more times than we can count. This Passover, let us rejoice in the miracle of our freedom, as well as the miracle of the state of Israel.

On behalf of Mairov, Simcha, Ellie, Sela and A.J., I wish you a seder filled with song, laughter and spirit, and a *Chag Sameach V'kasher* - a joyous and kosher Passover.

Please join us

As we remember those who perished

Sunday, May 1, 2011 @ 7:30 pm

(Mincha @ 7:15 pm)

Yom Hashoah 5771

Guest Speaker: *Lena Casuto Goren*

at

Marathon Jewish Center

245-37 60th Avenue

Douglaston, NY 11362

(718) 428-1580

Jointly Sponsored By

The Community Shoah Memorial Committee

Marathon Jewish Center

Temple Torah of Little Neck

Little Neck Jewish Center

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 David Berkowitz	15 Nina Wolf
1 Henry Famularo	16 Ilene Cohen
2 Max Ginsberg	16 Lauren Slakter
3 Lindsay Charlop	17 Marisa Lusthaus
3 Michael Feinsilver	18 Susan Charlop
3 Steven Glaser	18 Alyssa Hockstein
5 Jenny Tanenbaum	18 Andrew Schneider
6 Joan Weibman	18 Cantor Joshua Shron
7 Samuel Fleisher	20 Donald Tanenbaum
7 Jonathan Kestenbaum	22 Jacob Neiderman
7 Erica Sosman	22 Susan Tobias
7 Irwin Wolf	23 Andrew Grossman
8 Alan Laufer	24 Danielle Blatt
8 Joan Levine	24 Ethan Blatt
8 Lawrence Schwartz	24 Sally Coons
10 Rochelle Hoffman	24 Bruce Kauffman
10 Natalie Levin	24 Mallory Zalkin
11 Leah Auster	25 David Jason
11 Selma Goldberger	25 Michael Sondak
11 Ruth Orenstein	26 Lillian Resnick
12 Jerelyn Cohen	26 Judith Riccardo
12 Marcia Kops	27 Joshua Dyber
13 Anne Mittler	28 Laura Greenblatt
13 Michael Satten	28 Robin Sherman
14 Rebecca Shaller	28 Tessa Surielow
15 Brian Lee	29 Kyle Berlinsky
29 Gavin Grusd	

HAPPY APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

1 Roni and Steven Glaser
2 Gail and Jeff Ray
12 Fran and David Penner
19 Terry and Michael Makover
30 Gwenn and Eric Gelfand

MEET OUR BAR MITZVAH

JONATHAN SCHINDLER



I am Jonathan Schindler and I will honor my becoming a Bar Mitzvah on April 2nd, 2011. I am a 7th grade student at Great Neck South Middle School, where my sister, mother, and uncles walked the halls before me. When I'm not enjoying studying and doing homework, I like to master video games, play tennis & piano, and watch comedy shows.

I am part of a large, extended Jewish family, and I am proud to join the line of Jewish men & women who have become B'nai Mitzvah in this and many other great temples.

Adult Education Opportunities With Rabbi Yaffe At LNJC New Students Are Always Welcome!

Hebrew School for Adults!

Thursdays

7:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

Let's Learn the Aleph Bet!

An Adult Beginner's Hebrew class for first timers and those who need a refresher in the basics of Hebrew reading

8:15p.m. to 9:00p.m.

How to get more out of going to services

We will learn about the structure of the service, examine the meaning of the prayers, practice some melodies and discuss our relationship with God.

The Ancient Prophets of Israel Spoke To God. What Do They Have Say To Us?

Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.

In this class we will gain an understanding of the historical context of the Prophets and the role of the prophet in ancient Israel. We will examine timeless prophetic messages and seek their relevance for our contemporary lives.

Tikkun Olam

Come be a part of a new initiative - we are forming a new group - **The Tikkun Olam Group**

We are all looking for ways to infuse our lives with the core Jewish values of chesed (kindness), tzedakah (charity) and tikkun olam (social action). With this in mind Little Neck Jewish Center would like to be the place where you feel that you can make a difference in the lives of others and therefore positively affect your life in the process - let's feed the hungry, beautify our neighborhood, brighten someone's day with a visit or collect school supplies for the under privileged. These are just some ideas of the amazing projects that we can all participate in. So come with your spouse, your kids or your neighbors and let's make a difference together!

Our first meeting will be held on Sunday morning April 3rd at 11:30am. Bring your ideas and let's plan some events together.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Stacy Hoffman

Sisterhood Book Club

The next meeting of the Sisterhood Book Club will be on Wednesday, May 4th at the home of Elane Berk, 18 Birch Hill Road in Great Neck. We will be discussing The Invisible Bridge written by Julie Orringer. It is a sweeping historical novel that follows the tribulations of a middle-class Hungarian family, seen through the eyes of a 22 year old young man. Any questions, call Harriet at (516) 708-9404.

* * *

Join the Sisterhood Book Club at the synagogue on Sunday, May 15th at 10:30 AM. Dr. Ada Nicolescu, author of Prelude in Black and Green will discuss the gripping account of growing turmoil in Romania in the 1930s. She will review how this period of time impacted the lives of a Jewish family and the country they called home. Refreshments will be served.

Prayer Books Needed

We are in need of more prayer books for use at the shivah minyans that are conducted within our community.. Donations for this purpose will be gratefully appreciated. We know how important it is to have appropriate prayer books at a house of mourning.

Shabbat Afternoons

5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

4/2, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30



Sanctify this special time on Shabbat with prayer, a light meal, study and discussion.

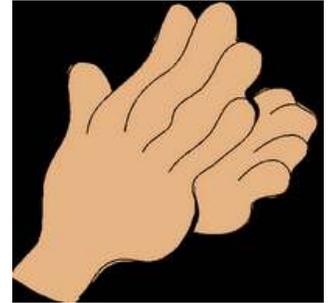
Try it, you'll like it!

Shabbat Highlights in April

Friday Night Live!

A Capella Musical Kabbalat Shabbat

April 1 @ 6:30 p.m.



Friday Nights

4/1, 1/8, 4/22, 4/29

6:00 pm Nosh & Schmooze
6:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service

A great way to begin the celebration of Shabbat.

Share a bite to eat with family, friends and members of the community and then join together in a lively service to welcome the Shabbat.



**Please Join Us For
An Erev Shabbat Service**

**Friday, April 15
At 8:00 p.m.**



**During This Service We Will
Celebrate April
Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**Shabbat Lunch and Learn
With Rabbi Yaffe
Saturday, April 16**



Immediately Following Shabbat Morning Services there will an enhanced Kiddush and an opportunity to explore and discuss a part of the weekly Torah portion.

Jr. Congregation



**Saturday Mornings
4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/30
10:15 a.m.**

Israel and the Turmoil in the Middle East

by Janet Tobin

Irwin and I attended the Conference of Presidents' Israel Leadership Mission and had the opportunity to engage with Israel's top elected officials and military leaders, experts and opinion molders. Together we examined the complex political, security, foreign policy and national challenges facing Israel's leaders and society, as well as regional and global events and trends and their impact on Israel and world Jewry.

The topics discussed were: Israel's relations with her neighbors; the significance of events in Tunis, Cairo, Beirut, Libya and Iran; Israel's international standing and battle against de-legitimization; and U.S. Israel relations.

On my return from the Israel Mission, I had the opportunity with other members of the Conference of Presidents to meet with President Barack Obama at the White House to discuss the U.S. Israel relations, ongoing changes in the Middle East and other issues. As part of a 50 person delegation, led by Alan Solow, Conference of Presidents Chairman, and Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Vice Chairman, we also met with David S. Cohen, the Department of Treasury's Acting Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence regarding sanctions against Iran; Dennis Ross, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for the Central Region; Daniel B. Shapiro, Senior Director for the Middle East and North Africa at the National Security Council; and with Republican and Democratic congressional leaders including House Speaker, John Boehner, House Majority Leader, Eric Cantor, House Majority Whip, Kevin McCarthy and House Minority Whip, Steny Hoyer.

During the almost one-hour session, President Obama addressed issues including the recent veto of the anti-Israel resolution at the United Nations Security Council, the ongoing changes taking place in the Middle East and prospects of peace between Israel and its neighbors.

We were able to engage in an open dialogue relating to issues of concern to the Jewish community. The President reaffirmed his deep commitment to Israel's security. He assured us that he won't let the Mideast changes threaten Israel. The strong bipartisan support for strengthening the U.S.-Israel relationship in all its aspects was evident from the meeting with the congressional leaders. They also spoke of concern regarding the U.N. continuing to single out Israel in one-sided resolutions and the status of foreign aid to Israel and other countries.

For the past two years, one of the most important issues among supporters of Israel has been how to assess the Obama administration and its commitment to the security of Israel and its place within the international community. The meeting with President Obama was warm and cordial. The President emphasized America's unshakable support for Israel's security, opposition to any effort to delegitimize it or single it out for criticism, and his commitment to achieve a peace that will secure the future for Arabs and Israelis alike.

It was the conclusion of President Obama's address that raised concern within the members of the delegation. The President concluded with his opinion that "Israel needs to search its soul to determine how much she is truly dedicated to pursuing a lasting peace." He indicated his opinion that Israel needs to do more. In addressing this delegation, he said nothing about the need for the Palestinians or the rest of the Arab world to do more than they are doing.

Although the veto cast by the United States in the U.N. Security Council was offered as proof of President Obama's steadfastness as a friend of Israel, the delegation that met with the president left concerned about the true feelings of the President and his administration. After the veto, apologetic comments were made by the Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton and Ambassador Susan Rice that branded building in the settlements as illegitimate and that they threaten peace and devastate trust. This is the kind of ammunition needed by those who wish to de-legitimize Israel to reach the conclusion that the Jewish State of Israel may no longer be able to count on U.S. support.

As supporters of Israel, we must continue open lines of communication with President Obama and his administration. We must continue to articulate our support for the State of Israel and the need for continued U.S. support and cooperation with the Jewish State.

LNJC Teens Pack It Up For Purim!



With generous donations from the following members of our congregation we were able to send 65 bags filled with essential food to hungry New Yorkers to fulfill the Purim Mitzvot of Matanot LaEvyonim and Mishloach Manot. Yasher Koach!

The Altheim Family	Randi and David Alwadish
Ellen and Jeffrey Baskin	Elane Berk
The Blatt Family	Dan and Phyllis Budne
Betsy Budne Finnel	The Charlop Family
The Dieber Family	Rhoda and Samuel Fleisher
Amy & Howard Friedner	The Glick Family
Ronnie & David Goldstein	Samantha Grenard
Ellen, Ken, Josh & Andrew Grossman	Louise and Perry Heidecker
Ruth Heyman	Rose Helfand
Steven & Stacy Hoffman & Family	The Hochberg/Lee Family
Ina Koota	Amy and Ken Kahaner
Vivienne and Phillip Lipsitz	Gale Kaplan
The Lopater Family	Janet and Arthur Laxer
Gerry Major	Marla, Louis, Lance and Cherie Litvin
Beatrice Nebel	Sheila and Carl Mittler
Nadine and Gene Rattien	Fran and David Penner
Randi Levy Rosinsky	Mindy and Richard Rosenfeld
The Singer Family	Isabel and Larry Schwartz
Jill and Danny Surielow & Family	Miriam and Richard Sondak
Adi and Dan Weber	The Tanenbaum Family
Laura and Amos Weinberg	Judy and Peter Vladamir & Family
The Wirtheim Family	Tami & Bennett Weiner & Family
Nina and Irwin Wolf	Rabbi Gordon & Carrie Yaffe

LNJC Sisterhood Fulfills the Mitzvah of Shalach Manot

The residents of the JBFCS Women's Transition Center in Far Rockaway received goodies for the children and special gifts for the Women.

Passover Potpourri

Women's Seder 2011 Sunday, April 10 @10am I Didn't Know That!

Sisterhood is pleased to announce the return of the Women's Seder on Sunday, April 10, 2011. How is the Women's Seder different from all other seders? The Women's Seder at LNJC uses a haggadah that focuses on the participation of the women of the exodus. Why is there an orange on the seder plate? What is Miriam's Cup and how is it used during the seder? How do the ten plagues relate to social issues that affect women of today? This year the Women's Seder will also focus on the diversity of Jewish traditions that we bring to our own family seders. The ingredients for an interesting, informative and inclusive seder can be as similar as the haggadahs that we use or as different as what makes the best haroset, matzo balls or soup served at dinner. At this Women's Seder we will share our unique family traditions with all who have come to celebrate Jewish women of yesterday and today and generations to come. Though you may find yourself saying "I didn't know that!" about Passover traditions practiced by other families, you will embrace traditions of Jews from around the world, perhaps introducing new traditions to your family's seder experience. Everyone is invited to attend!

Sale of Chametz

During the week of Pesach, it is forbidden for any Jew to own chametz. To avoid the unnecessary financial hardship that could result from requiring Jews to dispose of all items that are chametz, it has become customary to sell items of chametz to non-Jews for the week of Pesach. If you would like to sell your chametz to insure that you abide by the Jewish law of not owning any chametz during the week of Pesach, please fill out the form below and return it to the synagogue office on or before Friday, April 15.

Dear Rabbi Yaffe,

I/we _____ (name) would like to appoint you as my/our agent to sell all items of chametz that will be in my/our possession at _____ (address) on Monday April 18. This sale will be effective at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 18.

Signed _____

Calling All First Born (Men and Women)

Siyyum Bechorim

Monday April 18th at 6:30 a.m.

According to Jewish law, all Jews who are the first born children of either their father or mother should fast on the day before Passover in commemoration of the deliverance of the first born children of the ancient Israelites from the angel of death. However, individuals who are obligated to fast are exempted from fasting if they have the opportunity to participate in a **seudat mitzvah**, a festive meal that follows the performance of certain mitzvot. Therefore, it has become customary for synagogues, on the day before Passover, to make a **siyyum**, a public completion of portion of the Talmud, which is followed by a **seudat mitzvah**, thus exempting the first born participants from their obligation to fast.

Join us for our Community Seder on the second night of Pesach. Call the synagogue office for details.

Yizkor

A Special Service to Honor the Memory of our Loved Ones

Two Opportunities This Pesach!

Monday, April 25th 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 26 11:15 a.m.





Religious School News by Ellen Marcus

The month of March was very busy. The entire school spent time learning about havdalah; the blessings and the symbols. The Dalet and Hey classes made their own *Besamin* (spice boxes). The family Havdalah service was a wonderful experience. This month we also had a family Shabbat morning service. We joined together with the congregation to eat lunch and *shmooze*. Purim of course was the highlight of the month. The Bet class prepared a very entertaining Purim play which they performed at the megillah reading. The entire school baked hamantashen and made shalach manot packages. Thank you to all the parents who came to help bake. The teachers as well were busy learning with Fran Pearlman from our PARDES grant. Fran and the teachers shared dinner and then learned some new and creative ways to educate the students. After such a busy month there is no time to breathe, *Pesach* (Passover) is right around the corner and we have so much to learn, to prepare for the seder.

The Holiday of Passover (*Pesach*) is also known as *Z'man Chayrutaynu*, "The Season of Our Freedom". The Israelites were slaves in Egypt, and then during this season became a free people. Once a year it is a mitzvah for Jews to set themselves free. No matter what is happening in the outside world, celebrating Passover means rediscovering our inner freedom. Every year, each of us goes through our own version of "escape from Egypt". In the Haggadah we are told: "Each Jew is required to see him/herself as if s/he personally escaped from Egypt. In fifteen steps, the Seder takes us from slavery to freedom. Fifteen steps led to the sanctuary in the ancient Temple in Jerusalem. These fifteen steps led up to the Holy of Holies. That was the one spot on earth where people were sure to come close to God.

The Haggadah was the creation of the Rabbis. It was their way of fulfilling the mitzvah: "REMEMBER THIS DAY ON WHICH YOU CAME OUT FROM EGYPT, THE HOUSE OF SLAVERY, HOW THE ETERNAL BROUGHT YOU OUT BY STRENGTH OF HAND" (Exodus 6.6-7). The foods, blessings and ceremonies of the Seder take us through history. The Seder's fifteen steps take us from slavery to freedom, from degradation to dignity, from the rule of evil toward the rule of God.

At your Seder this year, think about how you will feel when you are taken out of slavery into the land of freedom? Our experience has bonded us together into a people connected to God's vision of history.

Nirtzah is a short poem, which says that we have completed all the laws of Passover and want God to redeem us. The Seder ends: "Soon lead Your people back to Zion. Next Year in Jerusalem." Even people living in Jerusalem say "Next Year in Jerusalem," because we are not asking for just physical location but for a Jerusalem that exists in the Messianic Era.

Here are some other questions to think about at your Seder. Why do we tell the story of Passover before we eat? Why not eat and then tell the story? What is your favorite step in the order of the Seder? Why? Remember the Seder is a mitzvah not just a dinner. Make the most out of your Seder. You can have some fun and interesting discussions. I wish everyone a very Happy Passover.

Chag Sameach,

Ellen Marcus

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February 16, 2011 - March 15

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Stan Liebross
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For a Speedy Recovery of:

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Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

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April 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Nosh & Schmooze 6:00 pm Erev Shabbat Service 6:30 pm A Capella Musical Shabbat Candle Lighting 7:02 pm	2 Shabbat HaChodesh Shabbat Shacharit 9:15 am Bar Mitzvah: Jonathan Schindler Jr. Congregation 10:15 am Mincha 5:30pm Seudah Shlishit 6:00 pm
3 Morning Minyan and Breakfast 8:45 am Membership Mtg. 10am	4 HS 4:15-6:15 pm Board Meeting 8 pm	5 Rosh Chodesh	6 Adult Ed 11:00 am HS 4:15-6:15 pm	7 Adult Ed 7:30 pm	8 Nosh & Schmooze 6:00 pm Erev Shabbat Service 6:30 pm Candle Lighting 7:09 pm	9 Shabbat Shacharit 9:15 am Jr. Congregation 10:15 am
10 Morning Minyan and Breakfast 8:45 am Women's Seder 10 am	11 HS 4:15-6:15 pm	12	13 Adult Ed 11:00 am HS 4:15-6:15 pm	14 Adult Ed 7:30 pm	15 Erev Shabbat Service 8:00 pm Birthdays & Anniversaries Celebrated Candle Lighting 7:16 pm	16 Shabbat HaGadol Shabbat Shacharit 9:15 am Jr. Congregation 10:15 am Lunch & Learn 12:00 pm Mincha 5:30pm Seudah Shlishit 6:00 pm
17 Morning Minyan and Breakfast 8:45 am	18 Erev Pesach Siyyum HaBechorim 6:30 am First Seder Candle Lighting 7:20 pm	19 Pesach Day 1 Shacharit 9:15 am Second Seder at LNJC 7:00 p.m. Candle Lighting 8:22 pm	20 Pesach Day 2 Shacharit 9:15 am Yom Tov Ends 8:23 pm	21	22 Nosh & Schmooze 6:00 pm Erev Shabbat Service 6:30 pm Candle Lighting 7:24 pm	23 Shabbat Shacharit 9:15 am Mincha 5:30pm Seudah Shlishit 6:00 pm
24 Erev Pesach 7 Morning Minyan and Breakfast 8:45 am Mincha/Maariv 7:30 pm Candle Lighting 7:26 pm	25 Pesach Day 7 Shacharit 9:15 am Mincha/Maariv 7:30 pm Yizkor 8:00 pm Candle Lighting 8:29 pm	26 Pesach Day 8 Shacharit 9:15 am Yizkor 11:15 am Yom Tov Ends 8:30 pm	27 Adult Ed 11:00 am HS 4:15-6:15 pm	28 Adult Ed 7:30 pm	29 Nosh & Schmooze 6:00 pm Erev Shabbat Service 6:30 pm Candle Lighting 7:31 pm	30 Shabbat Shacharit 9:15 am Aufruf: Elissa Lapide & Daniel Fein Mincha 5:30 pm Seudah Shlishit 6:00 pm

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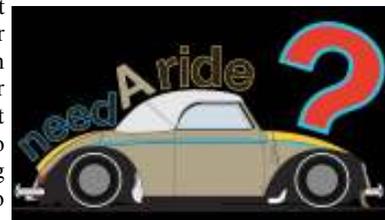
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Ellen Charlop

To make an addition or correction (our apologies), please call the office
at 718-224-0404 or e-mail us at: templetalk@lnjc.org.