

# Rabbi's Message

March 2010

**Ma nishtana halayla haze mikol haleilot?  
(Tamlud Babli, Mishna Pesachim, 116A)**



One of the most important moments of the Jewish calendar is Pesach. This is a holiday that I love. This is the Holy day that connects the past, the present and the future. I will never forget when I was a child sitting with my *Seyde* and my *Bobe* around the Pesach Seder. I will never forget my *Bobe's* matzah balls and my *Seyde's* energy so that night would be different from others.

So why is this night different from others? This is because Pesach (Passover) is the central spring festival in the Jewish calendar. It is one of the *shalosh regalim*, the three Pilgrimage Festivals of earlier times. Pesach celebrates the Exodus from Egypt over three thousand years ago. During the seven or eight days of the holiday, our Jewish brothers and sisters all over the world take part in extensive rituals, such as abstaining from eating foods with leavening (*chametz*), reading from the *Haggadah*, and eating the symbolic seder meal.

What is the meaning of the name? The name Pesach refers to the traditional account in the Torah when, before the tenth plague, our ancestors took the blood of a sacrificial lamb and smeared some of the lamb's blood on their doorposts. Our ancestors' homes were skipped, passed over, by the plague. That is how the English translation, "Passover", was derived.

What are the other names of Pesach? Pesach has three other names in Hebrew, each of which helps explain the significance of this holiday. The first is *Chag Ha-Aviv*, or the Festival of Spring. The Torah commands us to "observe the month of Aviv and offer a Pesach sacrifice to the Lord your God, for it was in the month of Aviv, at night, that the Lord your God freed you from Egypt." Aviv was the first month of the ancient Hebrew calendar, the month of Spring.

Pesach is likewise referred to as the *zeman cherutenu*, the Season of our Freedom, because it marks the liberation of our people from slavery. The holiday is also called *Chag Ha-Matzot*, the Festival of *Matzah*. Eating *matzah* is one of the most important *mitzvot* that we are required to do on Pesach. We eat matzah to remember, as it recounts in the book of Exodus, that our ancestors had to leave in a hasty manner, and could not wait for their bread to rise.

This night is different from all other nights. I would like to ask all TBT families to NOT celebrate the Pesach seder alone. Please call our office to let us know that you need a place to celebrate this special holiday. We will do our best to make sure that all our families will have a meaningful Pesach. Monday night, March 29<sup>th</sup>, is the First Seder. Let's enjoy and value our freedom as our ancestors taught us.

Chag Sameach,

Rabbi Claudio J. Kogan

## SHABBAT SERVICES

**March 5 (7:30 pm)**  
Sisterhood Shabbat Service

**March 12 (7:00 pm)**  
Family Shabbat Service

**March 19 (6:00 pm)**  
Kabbalat Shabbat Service  
(followed by carry-in dairy dinner)

**March 26 (7:30 pm)**  
Erev Shabbat Service  
(choir participating)

## President's Message

*(I am hoping that you will not just browse this text, but read it carefully—it is a call to action)*

A few weeks ago, the Guilford gym closed its doors. For more than 20 years, this was where my day began as I sweated, talked and laughed with my friends, and then, energized, headed off to work. I took this routine for granted, assuming that this gym would be there “forever” and whenever I needed it. None of 900+ members of our gym could have influenced or changed the unfortunate demise of our gym. We, as dues paying members, had formed a close community, yet were powerless to affect this business decision to close. As we all can attest, staying in business isn't easy these days, and the gym is just one of many shoreline business casualties we have seen in the past couple of years.

As members of Temple Beth Tikvah, and unlike the members of the Guilford gym, we are the “owners” of our beloved synagogue. We are empowered with the privilege and responsibility to ensure that TBT—our house of hope—is well run and continues to flourish as a significant Jewish presence on the Connecticut shoreline. We rely on the Temple Beth Tikvah community to be there when we need it, providing for our religious, educational, spiritual and social needs. Unlike the Guilford gym where its members had no control over its continued operation, we, members of TBT, most certainly do! We **must not** take this responsibility for granted. This month our financial officers begin to formulate a budget for 2010-2011. They are highly experienced and each year, are careful to develop a budget that protects our financial viability. In addition to the important financial support each of us makes to Temple Beth Tikvah, so much of what is accomplished is a result of hard-working members who volunteer their time. The work we do as volunteers supplements the wonderful work of our clergy and staff. **Our Temple cannot function without you.** First, I want to thank those who are currently giving so generously of your time—you know who you are. However, to be frank, this is a time when **there is a need for more of you to volunteer.** Now is the time to come forward.

Here is a partial list of where you are needed and can make a difference. Please call me or any member of the Board to discuss. I can be reached at 203 453-4889.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TBT Professional Staff</b>  <b>Rabbi Claudio J. Kogan</b>  <b>Dr. Howard F. Sommer, Rabbi Emeritus</b>  <i>cantorial staff</i>  <b>Cantor Dorothy Goldberg</b>  <b>Rick Calvert, Cantorial Soloist</b>  <i>educational staff</i>  <b>Marcia Geringer, Religious School Principal</b>  <b>Bernadette Stak, Nursery School Director</b>  <b>Linda DeRusha, Librarian</b>  <i>administrative staff</i>  <b>Jane Luyckx, Temple Administrator</b>  <b>Sandy Walsh, Temple Secretary</b>  <i>custodial staff</i>  <b>Don Bernat and Al Davenport</b></p>
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**Committees in Need of Additional Members (Chairpersons contact information):**

### Religious Activities

(Stu Weinzimer 203-453-1964, Robin Baker 203-488-9661)

### Social Justice

(Kate Lee 203-453-2567, Ellen Goldfarb 203-458-3061)

### Education

(Karen Redlich 203-245-6018, Neal Moskow 203-453-6945)

### Membership

(Judy Pozzi 203-318-0678, Leslie Sude 203-245-2010)

**Programming** – (Barb Chupp 203-245-2678, Jill Lesage 203-453-3472)

### Communications

(Elizabeth Rubin 203-421-5751, Rita Christopher 203-245-8386)

### Women of Reform Judaism

(Heide Mueller-Hatton 203-533-5005)

\*\*\*\***Other Skills and Background Needed:** Finance, Development, Human Resources, Project Management, Organization, Outreach- (Suzy Frisch 203 457-9555)\*\*\*\*

### TBT ByLaw Review – Committee Members Needed

Al Goldberg, Past President, will lead an *ad hoc* committee to examine TBT's bylaws. Our Bylaws define the governance traditions and processes by which the congregation operates. TBT's bylaws were originally drafted in the mid-1970's, with minor revisions made over the years. In many ways the bylaws no longer correspond to the TBT of today. Needed: members with a deep commitment to the mission and future of TBT, and past experience with TBT's committees or leadership role.

### One More Request -- Talk about TBT's Nursery School to your friends and Neighbors

Our TBT Jewish nursery school is open to children of all faiths and your help is needed to help inform the community about the wonderful program that we have. Bernadette Stak, Principal of the nursery school, is available to answer any questions.

B'Shalom,

Wendy Bluemling

## Torah Tots

Torah Tots meets on **Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**, 11 to noon. Come join us for an interactive parent-grandparent –child oriented session. This month the theme is Purim, and dress up is encouraged. Open to congregants and interested community members of pre-school aged children. There will be a craft and snack. Meet the Rabbi, our school principal, Ms. Geringer, our librarian, Linda DeRusha, and our cantorial soloist and music teacher, Rick Calvert. RSVP to Sandy in the temple office.

## Adult Education

### Wednesday evening class to start March 3rd

#### Introduction to Judaism (7:30-9:00 pm)

3/3, 3/17, 3/24, 4/7, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/26

Instructor: Rabbi Kogan

After studying the basic concept in Judaism, we will explore the fundamental Jewish thoughts and practice. This class is for everyone who would like to know more about Judaism. Topics include Jewish holidays and life cycle events, theology and prayer, Israel, history and Hebrew. Bring your friends and let's explore together our history and our traditions. We will explore in eight sessions important and relevant topics. Each class will be independent from the other.

To register for the class, please contact Sandy in the Temple office (203-245-7028) or [tbsandy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tbsandy@sbcglobal.net).

### Learn to lead: A practical guide to leading services

Have you always had a yen to lead services? Would you like to improve your knowledge of the service? If so, this class, on Sunday mornings in March is for you. Teens and adults — anyone over bar/bat mitzvah age — are welcome.

Starting this summer, members of TBT will have more opportunities to lead Shabbat services. Cantor Goldberg will teach this class, which will cover everything you need to learn to lead both spoken and musical prayers. No special knowledge of Hebrew, music or the prayers is necessary, just a willingness to learn to be a *shaliach tzibbur* — leader of prayer.

This Adult Education class consists of four sessions, Sundays from 10:30 a.m. — noon, March 7, 14, 21, and 28. Please sign up with Sandy Walsh in the temple office; for further information, contact Cantor Goldberg at 245-7028, ext. 209, or [dorothygoldberg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dorothygoldberg@sbcglobal.net).

### TBT CHOIR NEWS



Choir rehearsals for TBT's Adult Choir resume on March 10 for the March 26 service.

Below is the rehearsal schedule for Adult Choir services and performances. All are welcome to join; no previous knowledge of music or Hebrew is required. Please contact Cantor Goldberg at [cantor@templebethtikvahct.org](mailto:cantor@templebethtikvahct.org), or call her at the synagogue, 203-245-7028, ext. 209 for further information or to join the adult or youth choir.

The Adult Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. on the following schedule:

### ADULT CHOIR SCHEDULE 2009-2010

#### Shabbat service – March 26

Friday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, March 10, 17, 24

#### Yom Hashoah joint service with Chester (NOTE CHANGE IN DATE AND TIME)

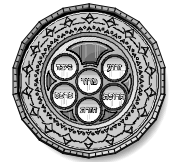
Saturday, April 10 7:00 p.m. (plus earlier rehearsal)

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.: March 31, April 7.

#### Choir Shabbat

Friday, June 18, 7:30 p.m.

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. May 26, June 2, 9, 16



### Seder Foods Focus of Rosh Chodesh Nisan

Please join us March 14 for our Rosh Chodesh Nisan meeting, celebrating the foods of Pesach. Participants can contribute favorite dishes from their traditional family seders, or create novel foods that reflect the themes of Pesach — liberation, spring, rebirth, joy. We will enjoy these foods and discuss how they connect us to the Passover season. The celebration will take place at the home of Leslie Sude, 113 Windsor Court in Madison, at 6:00 p.m., Sunday March 14. Please RSVP to Leslie at [lsude@hotmail.com](mailto:lsude@hotmail.com).

Rosh Chodesh is a biblical holiday that sanctifies the appearance of the first sliver of moon each month, symbolizing renewal and the cycle of life. Since the Middle Ages, it has been set apart as a holiday particularly important to women, for a variety of historical and religious reasons. Rosh Chodesh offers a varied forum for prayer, study and discussion of issues of particular concern to women. There is no fee to participate.

Rosh Chodesh is a participatory experience in which all have the opportunity to lead. Please contact Cantor Goldberg by e-mail at: [cantor@templebethtikvahct.org](mailto:cantor@templebethtikvahct.org), or call her at the synagogue, 203-245-7028, ext. 209 for further information. All services begin at 7:30 at TBT unless otherwise noted.

### Rosh Chodesh dates, 5770

Sunday, March 14, 6 p.m. (Nisan – actual date March 16) – at the Madison home of Leslie Sude

Wednesday, April 14 (Iyar)

Thursday, May 13 (Sivan, actual date May 14)

Sunday, June 13 (Tammuz)

## Nursery School

It is not too soon to think about summer..... the **TBTNS SUMMER MINI CAMP** takes place June 8-24. We offer arts and crafts, outdoor activities, water-play and special guests daily. The camp takes place on the Mary Blank Playground (weather permitting). Children need to be potty trained to attend. If you would like more information about this special camp for preschoolers, please contact the nursery school at 203-245-8039.



### Shalom... Bernadette Stak

By Rita Christopher

Bernadette Stak has been the director of the TBT Nursery school for more than a decade. Recently, she sat down with TBT co-director of communications, Rita Christopher, to talk about the school. The nursery school is now accepting enrollment for next year; if any TBT members, or friends and neighbors are interested, please call Bernadette for more information or a tour.

Q: What do you think makes the TBT Nursery School special?

A: There are so many things. Our faculty is amazing and we have two teachers in every classroom. The teachers are fully engaged with the students. We have a state of the art playground; we have the support of the temple community. Everybody talks about diversity today, but we really live diversity at the nursery school.

Q: How many of your students are Jewish?

A: About 40% of our students are Jewish; 60% are non-Jewish. In all, we have 68 children ranging in age from two to five years old. The two year olds come once a week and while they are here, we have a program for parents on things like child development, pent stress, and toilet training.

Q: What options for older children?

A: We have Tuesday, Thursday classes; Monday, Wednesday, Friday classes, an option for extended day with afternoon programs until 3. In our class for five-year-olds the parents have decided on another year of nursery school instead of going into kindergarten to give their children the gift of an extra year of growth.

Q: How does your curriculum reflect a Jewish perspective?

A: We have the Jewish holidays; every child learns about the High Holidays in the fall; we have a wonderful Hanukah party, a beautiful children's Seder where the parents come as well as the children. We do Shabbat every Friday.

Q: How do you deal with other holidays in the secular calendar?

A: We don't have St. Valentine's Day and we don't have holidays like Halloween, but we have a really great Purim party. We don't talk about the guy in the big red suit in December but every child makes a Chanukiah. When children leave here at the age of five, they understand about differences and about tolerance.

Q: How do you explain that to non-Jewish parents?

A: When they come for a tour of the school, we talk about what we do right off the bat. The parents have to have a comfort level with it. We talk about Shabbat; the parent guidebook has kosher guidelines. We are dairy only. Most like the idea that there is a spirituality about us.

Q: What do you think non-Jewish students take away from the experience?

A: One of my favorite stories is about a little girl who went to parochial school after leaving here. She asked her teacher how come their class had no challah on Fridays.

Q: How did you come to TBT?

A: I saw an advertisement in the paper. I called, and asked about the job and if I had to be Jewish; I talked to Sandy Walsh and she said no.

Q: What were you doing at the time?

A: I was director of the nursery school program at the Neighborhood Music School and a parent educator at the North Branford Family Resource Center.

Q: How long have you been here?

A: This is my 15<sup>th</sup> year here and my 30<sup>th</sup> year of teaching.

Q: Did you grow up and go to college in this area?

A: I grew up in North Branford and went to Southern. They called North Branford cow country then.

Q: How has pre-school changed over the time you have been involved with it?

A: Well, I think kids are a little bit more sophisticated and they know about technology. Sometimes when we read a book to them, they'll say, 'Oh, I've seen the video of that.' I think child development is the same; it is society that is so different

Q: Is there more emphasis on an academic program in nursery school today?

A: I fight the idea that nursery school has to be more academic. I don't want to move into teaching and testing. I prefer that kids come here and we meet them where they are; the rest of their lives will have formal structure. At this age, play is their work and toys are their tools. I want to preserve that as long as I can.

Q: Have you ever thought of teaching older children?

A: My certification goes to sixth grade but when I got out of school, I began teaching three-year-olds and I never wanted to leave. I have a real affection for this age group.

# Social Justice



## PROCEDURE FOR THE SALE OF CHAMETZ

It is often not feasible to remove all the *chametz* from your home. In that case, it should be stored away in a separate area, not to be used again until after Passover.

Among traditional Jews, putting *chametz* away has not been regarded as sufficient. Instead, they "sell" their *chametz* to the rabbi, who in turn "sells" it to a non-Jew. That person then "sells" it back after Passover. As a practical matter, this sale is a legal fiction. The preferred practice of leading Reform authorities is not to require selling of *chametz*, both because of its fictitious nature and because it necessitates treating a non-Jew as a means to perform a Jewish activity.

Of course, many Reform Jews will still choose to sell *chametz* out of solidarity with traditional Jewish practice. If you are among them, please complete the contract below and **return it to Rabbi Kogan by Monday, March 22.**

May you enjoy a *zissen Pesach*, a sweet and joyous Passover.

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## CONTRACT FOR SELLING CHAMETZ

Be it proclaimed that I hereby empower and authorize Rabbi Claudio J. Kogan to dispose of all chametz of whatever kind and nature that may be in my possession – wherever it may be – at home, place of business, or elsewhere. The Rabbi has full right to sell, dispose, and conduct all transactions as deemed fit and proper and for such time which is believed necessary. The above power hereby given is meant to meet the requirements of Jewish Law.

TO ALL ABOVE I AFFIX MY SIGNATURE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION (ADDRESS) WHERE CHAMETZ IS LOCATED:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Madison Cares/Habitat

The following Sunday dates have been scheduled for TBT volunteers to participate in:

March 21, April 18, May 16 and June 27. The Youth Group has signed on for the March 21 build but there may be some spots left.

A trip to New Orleans is planned for April 12<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>; the total cost of the trip with airfare and room and board is \$500. There are 25 people signed up and there are still spots remaining for teens age 16 or over and adults interested in chaperoning. The deadline for sign up is February 28<sup>th</sup>.

On Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> Madison Cares will host a movie night at the Madison Arts Theater. Wine and cheese will be served at 5:30 and there will be a silent auction and raffle. A local murder mystery writer will be present and all the local shops will be open as well. This is going to be a fun evening!

A wine tasting at the Madison Wine Shop is planned on a date to be announced.

For more information, contact Roger Winer at [roger.winer@roche.com](mailto:roger.winer@roche.com) or Linda Brody at [lindabrody@comcast.net](mailto:lindabrody@comcast.net).

### Food Baskets

Please remember to bring nonperishable items to the food baskets in the lobby. The economy has pushed local food banks beyond their capacity and there is an urgent need for donations. We will distribute the food to various area food banks.

Please consider joining the Social Justice Committee. You can give as much or as little of your time as you want to. Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 9th, at 7:15 PM. For more information contact Ellen Goldfarb at [erg1021a@aol.com](mailto:erg1021a@aol.com) or Kate Lee at [falkon181@aol.com](mailto:falkon181@aol.com).



### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Abigail Alpert, Sophie Alpert, Adam Coe, Richard Denton, Alana Friedman, Jacob Friedman, Laura Gibson, Andrew Goldfarb, Jordan Goldstein, Sam Greenberg, Anna Halperin, James Halperin, Barbara Harding, Evan Hasenfeld, Noah Horton, Noah Indes, David Karas, Ethan Langevin, Josie Lee, Molly LeGrant, Jonah Leventhal, Maya Moleski, Noah Rubin, Rebecca Rubinstein, Kyle Scholnick, Dana Schwartz, Rachel Stahl, Amanda Sterman, Ariel Tortora, Eliana Weinzimer

## PREPARING FOR PASSOVER

### AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXERCISE INFORMED CHOICE

The unofficial motto of the Reform Movement for many years has been “informed choice.” That is, Jews should learn the variety of Jewish positions on a matter and then make a knowledgeable choice among them. This applies notably to Passover. What will follow is (A) a guide for Passover observance for those who choose to follow the practice of Ashkenazic Orthodox Judaism, and (B) a guide for Passover observance for those who choose to follow the preferred practice of the leading authorities of Reform Judaism. You will decide which practice you believe is right for you and your family.

#### A. The Practice of Ashkenazic Orthodox Judaism

The rules below have developed over time within the Orthodox communities of Ashkenaz, that is, of central and eastern Europe. The vast majority of American Jews are either from these communities or, if they are Jews by Choice, have joined congregations where the Ashkenazic influence predominates. Even if they themselves are not members of Orthodox communities, many American Jews observe these practices either because they accept their validity or out of a sense of solidarity.

In preparation for Passover (Pesach), we remove from our homes and offices any trace of Chametz (leaven), in any of its forms. Chametz consists of foods made from wheat, rye, barley, oats and, generally speaking, grains and grain products, as well as the liquids made from them, including such products as alcohol, grain vinegar, and most soft drinks (since their CO<sub>2</sub> comes from fermented grain). Very often we find in the supermarkets products marked “Kosher for Passover” which substitute for items which would otherwise not be permissible on Passover.

Listed below are some of the basic laws concerning Passover. Many questions do arise about what is acceptable and what is not. If you have any questions not explained in the guidelines below, please feel free to call Rabbi Kogan at the synagogue (245-7028).

#### 1. PASSOVER FOODS FORBIDDEN FOR USE

The following foods are forbidden for use during Pesach: leavened bread, cakes, biscuits and crackers, cereals, coffee substitutes derived from cereals, wheat, barley, oats, rice, dry peas and dry beans, and all liquids which contain ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol.

#### 2. PERMITTED FOODS

a. Requiring no Kasher L'Pesach Label. The following foods are permitted in unopened packages or containers. They require no “Kasher L'Pesach” label. Natural coffee, sugar, tea, salt, pepper, fresh vegetables (except peas, beans and string beans, which are not permitted on Passover in Ashkenazic homes).

b. If certified for Passover use by Rabbinical authority. Matzah, matzah flour, butter, jams, jellies, relishes, dried fruits, frozen fruits and vegetables, salad oils, vegetable gelatin, shortenings, vinegar. Wines and liquors are permitted if they are certified by competent, trustworthy rabbinical authority as fit for Passover use. Labels and tags marked “Kasher L'Pesach” are of no value unless they bear rabbinical signature or proper insignia (such as the “O. U.”).

#### 3. DISHES AND UTENSILS

Only dishes and utensils especially reserved for Passover should be used, with the following exceptions:

a. The silverware, knives, forks, and spoons made entirely of metal, if used during the year, may be used on Passover if thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water. All table glassware is permitted after thorough scouring and soaking.

b. Metal pots and pans used for cooking if wholly of metal, though used during the year, may be used on Passover if first thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water. Pots and pans (and other utensils) with cracks, nicks, or corners which cannot be thoroughly cleaned, cannot be koshered for Pesach.

c. Earthenware, enamelware, plastics and porcelain utensils used during the year may not be used on Pesach.

d. A dishwasher may be used for Passover after thorough scouring with boiling water and the use of a new tray.

e. The stove is prepared for Pesach by thorough scrubbing and cleansing of all parts, including the racks, and then turning on full flame for one-half hour in the oven and all burners.

f. A microwave may be used for Passover after thorough cleaning and boiling with water of the glass revolving plate. If no plate exists, paper toweling can be placed on the bottom of the microwave each time an item is to be heated.

#### B. The Preferred Practice of Leading Reform Authorities

##### 1. NO PROHIBITION ON EATING RICE, CORN, LEGUMES

The Talmud, which defines most Jewish law (*halakhah*) lists the “five grains” out of which matzah may be made: wheat, barley, rye, oats, and spelt. Any items made from those grains that has not been supervised to avoid leavening (*chametz*) should be avoided during Passover. Examples would include leavened bread, cakes, biscuits, crackers, cereals, and liquids that contain these ingredients or flavors (including most forms of hard liquor).

Traditional Ashkenazic practice added to this list rice, corn, and legumes (such as beans and peas). The reasoning behind this was that these foods resembled *chametz*. Sephardic Jewry (the Jews of the Mediterranean and the Middle East) never adopted this additional limitation. A recent statement of Reform rabbinical thought agrees: “Reform practice, following the stan-

dard of the Talmud, permits the eating of rice and legumes during Pesach. .... [The traditional] observance, which presents a significant burden upon Jews during Pesach, has no *halakhic* justification....” Presumably, this would mean that the consumption of corn, too, is permitted. Those adopting this practice could, therefore, also consume products derived from rice, legumes, or corn, such as the corn syrup used to sweeten many processed foods.

## 2. LABELLING

Foods bearing a “Kasher l’Pesach” label are acceptable according to the most stringent of Jewish standards. If you choose to follow Reform practice, such as that outlined in the previous section, you are not limited to foods bearing such labels. It does, however, fall upon you to read the ingredients of each non-labelled processed food that you buy to determine if it contains one of the five grains or their derivatives, in which case you should avoid it.

## 3. DISHES AND UTENSILS

Some Reform Jews follow the practice of using special dishes and utensils for Passover, as outlined in the section dealing with the practices of Ashkenazic Orthodox Judaism. Others do not. In the synagogue building, Temple Beth Tikvah adheres to these traditional practices.

## SOME PESACH TIPS

**1. Involving the family.** Everyone in the family, children and adults, should participate in some form of preparation for Passover. As Rabbi Sommer has written, “The memories of the sights and sounds and smells of the home around holiday time remain with us as Jews throughout our adult lives.”

**2. Removing *chametz*.** In addition to refraining from eating *chametz*, we are also expected to remove *chametz* from our dwellings. This should be done by sundown on Sunday, March 28. That evening, a symbolic search for the last little bits of *chametz* (which might be carefully planted by parents) should take place. A blessing is recited: *Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha’olam, asher kid’shanu b’mitzvotav v’tzivanu al bi’ur chametz*, “Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who hallows us through *mitzvot* and commands us to burn *chametz*.” When the last bits of *chametz* are gathered up, they should be taken outside and burned.

**3. Beautifying the mitzvah.** Judaism encourages the practice of *hiddur mitzvah*, beautifying the mitzvah. If you find ways to make your seder look holy, this will go a long way toward making it feel holy. Examples could include using a white tablecloth, nice dishes, and lovely flowers.

**4. Selecting and ordering a Haggadah.** A wide variety of Haggadot are available for use during Passover. This is because their texts vary greatly. It is advisable, therefore, to select one Haggadah as the basic one for your seder and to make sure that each participant has a copy; order these sufficiently in advance.

Some families also advise participants to bring another Haggadah with them for use as commentary during the seder. The Reform Movement currently offers two Haggadot: *A Passover Haggadah* and *The Open Door*. Another quite excellent Haggadah is *A Different Night: The Family Participation Haggadah* (available in both classic and compact versions).

**5. Preparing for the seder.** A seder has three functions: reenactment of a ritual, an opportunity for serious adult discussion, and making the experience meaningful for children. It is impossible to fulfill all three functions fully; at the same time, focusing on one to the exclusion of the others produces a seder lacking in a vital element. A good seder will find a way to balance all three functions. This means a seder leader will have to think in advance how to do this and will have to plot out which parts of the Haggadah must be read and which parts can appropriately be summarized. The leader should devise opportunities for children to be creative and for adults to discuss important themes. A good Haggadah will contain tips that will reassure even the most anxious seder leader. In addition, please feel free to contact Rabbi Kogan for suggestions.

**6. Remember the main point.** If there is one main point to the seder it is this: “In every generation, we must feel as if each of us personally was freed from Egypt.” When you are making decisions about the shape of your seder, always keep in mind how it can bring the miracle of deliverance alive to each person at the table.

**7. “This is the bread of affliction, the poor bread.”** As we eat matzah, bread in its most basic form, we should remember that many people are relying on only the bare minimum of food, and some not even on that. Passover is traditionally a time for *tzedakah* to make sure that we can, as the Haggadah says, “let all who are hungry come and eat.” The following are some organizations devoted to eliminating hunger; you should make a donation to one of them or to some other appropriate organization (addresses available online, or you can direct a check to Rabbi Kogan with instructions to forward it to the named organization):

MAZON: A Jewish Reponse to Hunger  
American Jewish World Service (Darfur relief)  
Jewish Family Service  
Feed the Children  
Connecticut Food Bank

**8. Hiding the afikoman.** The Sisterhood Judaica Shop has wonderful suggestions for a prize for the children involved in the search for the afikoman.

**9. Don’t forget the end of the seder.** Plan your seder so that everyone has at least some energy after the meal is eaten. Some of the most memorable of Jewish rituals, such as the Cup for Elijah, the singing of many Passover songs, and the reminder, “Next year in Jerusalem,” occur after the meal. Your seder will be more meaningful if you allow a little time for these postprandial activities.

## Schedule of Services

### Friday, March 5

7:30 p.m. Sisterhood Shabbat Service  
 Torah portion: Shabbat Parah; Ki Tissa (Exodus 30:11 – 34:35)  
 TAMC, rev. ed., p. 584; TAMC, 1<sup>st</sup> ed., p. 632;  
 Hertz, p. 352

### Saturday, March 6

9:00 a.m. Torah Study  
 10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Minyan



### Friday, March 12

7:00 p.m. Family Shabbat Service  
 Torah portion: Shabbat Hachodesh, Vayakhel-Pekudei (Exodus 35:1 – 40:38)  
 TAMC, rev. ed., p. 612; TAMC, 1<sup>st</sup> ed., p. 668;  
 Hertz, p. 373

### Saturday, March 13

9:00 a.m. Torah Study  
 10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Minyan

### Friday, March 19

6:00 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service (followed by carry-in dairy dinner)  
 Torah portion: Vayikra (Leviticus 1:1 – 5:26)  
 TAMC, rev. ed., p. 660; TAMC, 1<sup>st</sup> ed., p. 757;  
 Hertz, p. 410

### Saturday, March 20

9:00 a.m. Torah Study  
 10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Minyan

### Friday, March 26

7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service (choir participating)  
 Torah portion: Shabbat Hagadol; Tzav (Leviticus 6:1 - 8:36)  
 TAMC, rev. ed., p. 688; TAMC, 1<sup>st</sup> ed., p. 781;  
 Hertz, p. 429

### Saturday, March 27

9:00 a.m. Torah Study  
 10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Minyan

The *Chumash* (Torah Commentary) contains the Hebrew text of the Torah (the first section of the Bible) with vocalization and punctuation. The *Chumashim* we use at TBT also contain English translations and commentaries. In addition, they carry the text of each Haftarah, a portion from the Prophets (the second section of the Bible). The three *Chumashim* referred to above are:

TAMC, rev. ed. = The Torah: A Modern Commentary, revised edition (2005)

TAMC, 1<sup>st</sup> ed. = The Torah: A Modern Commentary, 1<sup>st</sup> edition (W. Gunther Plaut, ed.) (1981)

Hertz = The Pentateuch and Haftarahs (J.H. Hertz, ed.) (1937)

## TBT Book Group

Upcoming 2010 TBT Book Group reads:

March — The Girl From Foreign by Saida Shepard  
 April – My Grandfather's Blessings by Rachel Remen  
 May -- My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search For His Family's Past by Ariel Sabar  
 June – Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay  
 July – The Help by Kathryn Stockett

Meetings take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Shoreline Diner in Guilford. For further information, please contact Lisa Harding at [Lpharding@snet.net](mailto:Lpharding@snet.net) or 203-245-5940.

## Oneg Shabbat

We wish to thank the following members for sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat during February:

Feb. 5 in honor of Ruby and Dvora Redlich and Rob and Josh Israel by their proud parents — Karen and Norman Redlich, and Ami and Gary Israel

Feb. 12 Sally Spiegel and Phyllis Kaufman

Feb. 19 Charles and Judith Barr, in honor of their grandchildren

Feb. 26 Jan Walzer and David Etzel in honor of Rose becoming a Bat Mitzvah

## Mi Shebeirach list update

Our Mi Shebeirach list, which is an important way of recognizing and keeping in our prayers those struggling with illness, tends to get longer and longer each month. To prevent keeping people on the list who may not need to be there still, Cantor Goldberg is sending out a monthly request, through e-mail and in the Shofar, for names. After this request goes out, the old list will be discarded and the new will include those names sent to her by e-mail, [cantor@templebethtikvahct.org](mailto:cantor@templebethtikvahct.org), or to Sandy Walsh in the Temple office, [tbtsandy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tbtsandy@sbcglobal.net). You can also contact Cantor Goldberg or Sandy Walsh by phone at 203-245-7028. Names will remain on the list for one month unless otherwise specified.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

### **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

by Robert and Iris Oliva in support of Rabbi Kogan  
 by Susan Jacobson in thanks to Rabbi Kogan for the funeral service for her mother, Rosalie Bawarsky  
 by Robert Kaplan and Lisa Walker in memory of Robert's mother, Rhoda Lee Kaplan  
 by Annie and Burt Cohen in honor of Sam's Bat Mitzvah  
 by Stanley Altman in observance of the Yahrzeits of Gladys P. Altman and Joseph Altman

### **CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

by Annie and Burt Cohen in honor of Sam Cohen's Bar Mitzvah and in gratitude for the help and support they received from everyone at TBT  
 by Sally Cohen in memory of Minnie Cohen, beloved mother of Myron Cohen and mother-in-law of Sally Cohen  
 by Laurie and Howard Ruderfer and Matthew, Isaac and Hannah Ellman with thanks for the Cantor's support for the family after the loss of Laurie's and Howard's parents, Herbert and Marjorie Ruderfer  
 by the Kessler family in loving memory of Hilda Kessler, Bob's mother  
 by Judy Merriam in memory of the Yahrzeit of her mother, Rose Schwartz

### **GENERAL FUND**

by Robert Kaplan and Lisa Walker in memory of Rhoda Kaplan  
 by Donald Miller in memory of his mother, Gertrude Miller  
 by Selma Engel in memory of Dorothy Gleich, mother of Ed Gleich  
 by Belle Goldstein, with sincere and heartfelt sympathy, in memory of Dorothy Gleich, beloved mother of Dr. Edward Gleich  
 by Myra Josephson in memory of Dorothy Gleich

### **LAURENCE B. & ELAINE J. SOMMER MEMORIAL FUND FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

by Gary Karp in appreciation of Rabbi Sommer  
 by Jimmy Shure in memory of Henry Maretz

### **ENDOWMENT FUND**

by Roberta and Larry Harris in memory of Elizabeth Harris  
 by Walter, Sue, Sarah and Noah Spigelman in memory of Harriet Spigelman  
 by Roberta and Larry Harris in memory of James Welsch  
 by Phyllis Kaufman in memory of Dorothy Gleich, beloved mother of Ed Gleich

by the Spigelman family in memory of Dorothy Gleich  
 by the Spigelman family in memory of Seymour Freedman, brother and brother-in-law of Gloria and Ed Sack  
 by Edward and Gloria Sack in memory of Rena F. Sack  
 by Rena and Sam Powell in honor of Irv Drabkin's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday  
 by Rena and Sam Powell in memory of Dorothy Gleich

### **THE HELEN KATZ GOODKIND BEAUTIFICATION FUND**

by Roberta and Larry Harris in memory of Gladys Welsch  
 by Helen, Marcy, Sandy and Lizzi Winokur in memory of Arnold Winokur

### **THE RICHARD C. KAHRIMANIS MUSIC FUND**

by the Ruderfer/Ellman family thanking all those who reminded them this past year that they were a part of the TBT family and community  
 by Annie and Burt Cohen in appreciation of Anne Kahrimanis's many hours of working with Sam to get him ready for his Bar Mitzvah  
 by Barbara and Douglas Agranov in memory of Dorothy Gleich, mother of Ed Gleich  
 by Joel and Tina Silidker in memory of Dorothy Gleich

### **THE PHYLLIS SILIDKER MUSIC ENRICHMENT FUND**

by Laurie Ruderfer in memory of her parents, Marge and Herb Ruderfer, who brought music into their home

### **SISTERHOOD CANTORIAL FUND**

by Norma Diamond in memory of Irving Diamond

### **PRAYERBOOK FUND**

by Linda and Kenneth Chipkin in memory of Linda's beloved father, Benjamin Bernstein, on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his passing

### **LIBRARY FUND**

by the Ruderfer/Ellman family with thanks to those who lent us their strength and caring during our recent time of need

### **THE ISRAEL & MARY TICOTSKY EDUCATION ENRICHMENT FUND**

by Marcia Geringer in memory of Sidney B. Geringer

### **THE MARK ROSENBLUM MEMORIAL FUND**

by Laurie Ruderfer in memory of Sheldon Ruderfer


## Shoppers



Barbara Agranov has grocery coupons available for Stop & Shop and Big Y. Thank you for all your support in purchasing these coupons. They are always available for purchase at the Temple, or I can be reached at 203-245-6735 or 203-430-7647 (cell) or email at [ddagranov@snet.net](mailto:ddagranov@snet.net). The coupons are also available for sale in the TBT Gift Shop. With your help, we can make the ongoing fundraiser a continued success.

## In Memoriam

Helen Keller, mother of Emanuel Berk  
 Dorothy Gleich, mother of Edward Gleich  
 Jack Baser, father of Marshall Baser



**TEMPLE BETH TIKVAH  
SHOFAR**

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**MARCH 2010**

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