

# HAPPENINGS

MARCH 2010

NUMBER SEVEN

## From Our Rabbi

Probably the most popular Passover joke goes something like this:

In London there lived a successful Jew named Hyman Goldfarb. One day, Hy was to be knighted by the Queen.

But at the ceremony, while kneeling in front of the Queen, he became very nervous and forgot the Latin phrase he was supposed to utter. Instead he blurted another foreign phrase, he was much more accustomed to: "Ma nishtana ha leila hazeh mecol haleilot.."

On hearing this, the Queen raised her eyebrows, turned to the king and asked, "Why is this knight different from all other knights?"

Without a doubt Passover is one of the most emblematic holidays of our people and the recitation of the four question (Der Fier kashes, as it was said in Yiddish when I was growing up) is one of highlights of the celebration.

Why questions? Why not "just the facts, mam!?" We Jews are an inquisitive people. In fact, it could be said that the essence of being Jewish lies in the act of questioning far more than in the act of responding to the question. We are heirs of a tradition of questioning, search for knowledge and truth. Our Biblical heroes, like Abraham and Moses,

questioned authority and power, not being afraid to question even God. I was just reading in "Start up Nation", a book by Dan Senior and Saul Singer, that tradition carried on through out or history and even today the Israeli army is the only one in the world in which a soldier can questions the actions or decisions even of a general with no negative consequences. we carry this tradition into the Seder and hopefully in everything we do in our lives. The combination of the search for truth and the lack of fear of challenging what is wrong with the world are the hallmarks of our people. The "four questions" are but another reminder of who and what we are. may they inspire us to continue to act as Jews from this Passover till next, and those beyond: questioning and searching until we can reach the Messianic times that are expressed by the last words of our Haggadahs: "Next year in Jerusalem!"

I wish all of you a Happy, meaningful and questioning Passover.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Jacques Cukierkorn

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## WORSHIP HOURS

Friday, March 5 ..... 6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 12 ..... 6:30 p.m.  
*Sermon: Role Models of Yesterday and Today*

Friday, March 19 ..... 6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 26 ..... 6:30 p.m.

## Special Oneg Shabbat

We are already in the mood for Passover! On **Friday, March 5** following services, enjoy the wonderful world of Charoset as we sample several kinds during our Oneg Shabbat. Recipes will be available.

## Purim Carnival

Join us on **Sunday, March 7** from 11 am - 12:30 pm for the Religious School's Purim Carnival. This year there will be new food and new games. Wii ping pong anyone? There will be a special game and crafts room for the tots also. Lunch will be from \$2-3 and you can get 5 shekles for \$1.

## Lunch With the Rabbi

Have lunch with the Rabbi on **Wednesday, March 10** at noon in the Temple's library. Rabbi and Israeli Emissary Matan Rotman will discuss the current situation in Israel and how they got there. Please RSVP to the Temple at 816-523-7809.

## Adult Education

Have you always wanted to have a Seder at your home . . .and lead the Seder yourself? Now's your chance! Come and learn the "ins and outs" of the art. Learn some history about the Seder, what can be omitted if you are out of time, why certain things are done at certain points in the Seder . . . and very importantly, get some pointers on how to have the food timed to be ready at certain points in the Seder! **Sunday afternoon, March 7**, from 4-6 pm. Please RSVP to the Temple office at 816-523-7809.

## Mazel Tots

Come and celebrate Passover with us. Journey through the desert with us, sing some Passover songs, and of course, eat some special Passover foods as we travel on the way. **Sunday, March 28** at 9:30am. Please RSVP to the Temple office at 816-523-7809.

## Torah For Non Torah Scholars

Come to services early at 6:00 pm on Friday evenings in March and participate in study sessions in the Krasne Room focusing on the Torah.

## A Special Thank You

The Temple would like to thank Phoebe Unterman and her grandmother, Eva Unterman, for speaking to our students on February 7. Eva shared her experiences before the war, during the Shoah, and how unbelievably lucky she was to find her mother and father had also survived. Phoebe wrote and illustrated the book Through Eva's Eyes and, she and her family graciously donated a copy of the book to our library so students could read it. Eva hopes our students and all who hear her story will "never give up and to look toward the future."

## Library Movies

Through the generosity of Mr. Dick Rubenstein, the Levin Library now has a DVD movie collection located on the back wall of the library. Each movie has a NRT pink sticker on it for identification. If you want to check out a movie, there is a place to sign it out at the library desk. Enjoy the collection!

Fiddler on the Roof  
Oliver  
Holocaust (mini-series with Meryl Streep and James Woods)  
Europa Europa  
Blazing Saddles (Mel Brooks)  
Living Our Legacy  
Dairy of Ann Frank  
The Ten Commandments (Charlton Heston)  
Yentl (Barbra Streisand)  
Chariots of Fire  
Schindler's List  
Cabaret (Liza Minnelli)  
Biloxi Blues  
Dirty Dancing (Patrick Swayze)  
Funny Girl (Barbra Streisand)  
Broadway Danny Rose (Woody Allen)  
Crimes and Misdemeanors (Woody Allen)  
Marathon Man  
Driving Miss Daisy  
Ben Hur (Charlton Heston)

## From Our Religious School

As spring approaches, we get ready to say goodbye to our 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders for the year on March 7. The retreat in the fall gave students a great opportunity to get to know each other better. Now they will be able to focus on school and their personal lives. We look forward to seeing everyone again in the fall.

Our annual Purim Carnival will be on March 7 starting at 11am - 12:30pm. There will be new games, prizes, and pizza for your children's enjoyment. Many thanks to Margaret Lange, Lynn Barnett and Barb Bloch for planning this fun day.

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders spent Super Bowl Sunday at Harvesters for their "Souper Bowl Sunday." Students bagged, weighed, and sealed carrots to be given out to needy families. What a great opportunity for students to experience G'milut Chasadim, acts of loving kindness!

Grades K, 1, 2, and 7 celebrated Tu B'Shevat, celebrating a New Year for trees with classroom Seders. With interest in being "green" booming, this lesser holiday is gaining attention.

Spring vacation is March 14 and 21. Classes resume on March 28. Enjoy the spring. Remember, we have great books for kids to read over vacation and videos for parents for those long car rides.

Ann Brendle  
Religious School Director

## From Our President

Dear Friends,

There's a popular book series called *Where's Waldo?* that was first published in 1987. If you aren't familiar with it, I highly recommend you ask someone about it under the age of 21. As adults, I'm thinking we should be in search of something else: Civil Discourse.

I am extremely disillusioned by the lack of civil discourse in society today. Expressions like "it's my way or the highway" or, "if you are not for me you are against me" have not only become a part of everyday conversations, but worse yet, they're *tolerated* phrases. It seems that it is getting increasingly difficult to work together to achieve a common goal. Is "compromise" out of the question? The more we tolerate this polarizing behavior, the more we isolate ourselves. Last year at Sunday School I was told by another Jewish person that I wasn't a good Jew because I couldn't speak or understand Hebrew. Really??? What about the millions of Jews who perished in the Holocaust who couldn't read Hebrew? Go figure. We've (we being Jews) become divisive and vocally disparaging regarding our perspective over the support of Israel. If we keep up this behavior, it won't take a terrorist's act to wipe us off the map; we could run the risk of self-destruction.

This is where Classical Reform Judaism (e.g. our beloved congregation) comes into the picture. We're all about being inclusive, about accepting and respecting each other's differences, as long as we maintain high moral and ethical standards. What action should we take to resuscitate civil discourse? Next time you are on the verge of making a harsh comment to someone with whom you strongly disagree, stop yourself and think about how you would react if that person made such a comment to you. My bet is that you'll either modify/soften your words, or ask another question to understand their perspective. Who knows, maybe some solution will surface that you hadn't even considered. What a concept.

"It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt." Abraham Lincoln. Maybe I'll begin working on a book entitled, *Where's Abe?*

Tom Barnett  
President

## We Gratefully Acknowledge the Following Contributions to The New Reform Temple

*To the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund*  
by Mr. & Mrs. Edward Porter  
by Mr. Michael Rosenblum

In Honor of Herb Adler  
by Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Fleischer

In Memory of Geneva O'Maley  
by Mrs. Sylvia Manko

*To the Temple*  
by The Sosland Foundation



Pattie Shostak's 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders recently completed several lessons about Israel with Matan Rotman, the Israeli Emissary.

## March Birthdays

01 Rob Sight	06 Samuel Blond	14 Tom Bloch	23 Steve Glassman
02 Carter Baum	06 Michael Braude	14 Brandan Kovacs	23 Kistin Wilson
03 Sandy Berkley	06 Debra Starr	14 Harper Witbrod	24 Robert Cohen
04 Chris Crenner	08 Esther Loeb	15 Kathy Rainen	24 Lori Jacob
04 Spencer Sight	08 Daniel Parmet	16 Michael Grossman	25 Joe Bortnick
05 Jack Berlau	09 Lauren Miller	21 Joe Barewin	26 David Coe
05 Benjamin Davis	10 Bob Freilich	21 Jack Bresky	27 Danny Brozman
05 Kathy Levy	10 Jean Nachman	21 Bernard Levi	28 Donna Holmes
05 David Pener	12 Mary Feigenbaum	22 Susan Glatter Judy	29 Betty Lou Epstein
05 Bryan Roesler	12 Zoey Gunter	22 Andy Udell	29 Laura Minskovsky
06 Kaitlyn Batdorf			31 Daniel Goldstein

## March Anniversaries

01 Dan & Kristen Fromm	12 Joel & Diana Resnick	22 Jeremy & Ashley Gunter
03 Zachary & Emily Luea	15 Howard & Michelle Goldwasser	23 Bernard & Barbara Brown
03 Jerry & Cyprienne White	19 Paul & Bunni Copaken	24 Steve & Karen Rothstein
05 Abe & Sis Rosenberg	19 Vern & Jerry Davidson	25 Gregg & Sirena Davidson
07 Robert & Carol Cohon	19 David & Sara Roesler	26 Stuart & Ellen Eisen
07 Jim & Barbara Holzmark	20 Cliff & Carol Trenton	27 Tom & Kay Schoenfeld

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## Two Community Wide Second Night of Passover Seders Planned for Jewish Community

Share the second night of Passover with others in the community on **Tuesday, March 30**. Space is limited for each Seder and reservations will be accepted on a first come basis.

A traditional Seder will take place at Beth Israel Abraham Voliner beginning at 8:00 pm. The meal will be kosher for Passover. This Seder will take place late into the evening and include long held traditions and customs.

A contemporary/modern Seder will be held at The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah beginning at 6:30 pm. The food will be kosher for Passover. This Seder will be family friendly and include traditions and customs of the Passover Seder while incorporating meaningful events of our day into an interactive and hands-on Seder experience.

Advance reservations are mandatory and must be received by Wednesday, March 17. Please contact Annette Fish at 913-327-4622 for more information or to obtain a reservation form.



Adryan Steinberg's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class recently made candy trees in celebration of TuB'shevat.

## Y A H R Z E I T S

*"The memory of the righteous shall be for a blessing"*

### March 5

Irving Abend  
Harold Baer  
David Joel Benjamin, II  
Walter J. Berkowitz  
Betty Sight Cohen  
Harry Endlich  
Arthur Fels  
Richard A. Goldman  
Joseph Gottstein  
Samuel Greene  
Sophie Harper  
Gladys Hoffman  
Alice Kamen  
Manela Levi  
Carol H. Levin  
Harvey McCord

### March 12

Arthur Adelman, M.D.  
Saurine Brown  
Stanley W. Dreyer  
William Epstein  
Sylvia R. Galamba  
Stanley Goldwasser  
Frances Rabicoff Haith  
Elinor Kamen  
Harold Kander  
Nathan Reiger  
Dorothy Kemp Schoenfeld  
Helen E. Udell  
Sally Valenti  
Hyman Weneck  
Bess Monsky Lazere Yettra

### March 19

Yaron Bileski  
Harry Bresky  
Katie Brown  
Alvin Goldstein  
Norman Harper  
Ruth Levy  
Frances H. Rubenstein  
Stuart Rudnick  
Charles Tucker  
Helmut Vogel  
Dorothy Zacharias

### March 26

Betram Cohon  
Charles Dreyer  
Martin Fromm  
Walter P. Jacob  
Christopher Kapleau  
Jules M. Mayer  
Max Neuberger  
Lois Finkel Sherman  
Charles Siegel  
Hulda Slegman  
Dr. Philip Sneid  
Nathan Waisblum  
Jux Weinberg