

MISHPOCHEH

Temple Beth Shalom ☆ Brigantine Jewish Community Center

April 2011 Vol. 19, No. 3

Rabbi Gerald R. Fox

Adar II/Nisan 5771

SERVICES

Every Friday Evening
Throughout the Year,
8-9 p.m.

Light Refreshments

Saturday Services

April 9, 2011 • 10 a.m.

(Followed by Kiddush)

Board Meeting

Sunday, April 10 • 10 a.m.

IMPORTANT

GENERAL MEETING

Yizkor

Tuesday, April 26 • 10 a.m.



RABBI'S COLUMN

Two Paths to Freedom

Is it the fatigue of Winter? Could it be the thaw of Spring? Whatever it is, this year we've seen a move toward "global Spring cleaning" unlike anything we've seen in decades. And yet, for most Jews, while worried about what the Middle East political changes will mean for Israel (and Jewish) continuity, we find the yearnings for freedom splashed across from Twitter to CNN and everything in between an echo of our own People's struggles throughout history.

If the joy of the month of Adar, with the arrival of the joyous story and customs of Purim, warms our hearts from the chill of an enclosed Winter, the month of Nisan and its major holiday of Pesach (Passover) speaks volumes about our smallness in the world and, conversely, God's greatness.

In the Purim narrative, the Book of Esther, we cannot find a single mention of God or God's role in the upturning of the rock-solid status quo of the Jew as powerless peasant, of helpless victim. And yet, since its inception as a holiday within the Jewish calendar, the narrative has been understood not as a human tale where people act on their whims but rather as a tale of the burden of righteous (Godly) living. We cannot read the story today otherwise . . . it is the practical application of God's laws and the best of the story reflects God's character: compassion, speaking truth about one's own nature, and the effort to get along with others, to name just a few.

And yet, while Purim speaks in uncommon ways with the language of "we can do it on our own" and describes the implementation of God's word without God's direct intervention, Pesach is the embodiment of a completely different idiom. With the story of the Exodus, we see our ancestors making the first step, the first leap of faith, but we are reminded by the Torah text again and again, as we are during the celebration/remembrance of our Exodus from Egypt, that we would not have succeeded in alleviating our suffering in the bonds of slavery without God's intervention on our behalf.

Let's look at just one example: With Nachshon's act, who the midrash tells us was the one who jumped in the Sea of Reeds first thereby showing his faith in something greater than himself, God's faith in our ancestors was justified and thereby the sea was split for our frightened ancestors to cross in safety. And this is not an isolated case; think of the pillar of fire or the pillar of cloud or the manna or any part of the Pesach narrative and you will find it impossible to separate the unfolding story of the liberation of our ancestors from Egyptian bondage from God's active participation within it.

Purim may be the story of how a People became free, but Pesach is the story of

(RABBI continued on page 2)



**All are encouraged to attend
Sunday, April 10 • 10 a.m.**

**Board Meeting
and
General Membership
Meeting.**

**We will vote on proposed
changes to our constitution
and by-laws.**



**SAVE
THE
DATE:**

Saturday, June 25 • 8:30 p.m.
The summer event of the season!
A BBQ Fundraiser hosted by the Solomons
at their spectacular home on the bay! \$25 per person.
You won't want to miss this gala event, so save the date!
More details to come.



WHERE DID YOU HIDE THE AFIKOMEN?

BY RABBI STEVEN C. WERNICK

In the bread box. In a cardboard recycling box (but it's hard to tell the cardboard from the matzah). In the middle pocket of the matzah cover. Mixed in with your old record collection. In the same place Grandpa has been hiding it for the past 20 years. (Why not? No one's found it there yet!) How do you play this game? Do you hide and the children seek? Do the children hide and you seek? Who does the ransoming? How much does it cost you?

Hiding the afikomen clearly is one of Passover's most beloved traditions, but have you ever wondered what its purpose might be? Why do we do it?

Over the centuries many answers have been offered. Rambam suggests that it is an unusual action designed to pique a child's curiosity, to inspire questions, and to keep children awake and engaged throughout the seder.

The Vilna Gaon teaches that we hide the afikomen to prevent its embarrassment, because it is overlooked until after the meal. The other matzot, after all, receive a brachah, so we cover this one and remove it from the table. There are other explanations as well – many much more technical and legal in nature.



Person of the Month Dr. Harry Chaikin

Dr. Harry Chaikin was recently awarded the Alan Angelo Community Key Award from the Atlantic City Kiwanis Club Foundation. The award honors individuals who have made a difference in our community through their volunteerism. Harry will be presented the award at the May meeting of the club. In addition to the fundraising that he does for the MS Society and the Atlantic City Rescue Mission by bicycling, he has been a physician practicing in Brigantine for 30 years. He and his wife Sarah have been married for 33 years and they have three adult daughters, Katie, Hannah and Carolyn.

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Rabbi (continued from page 1)

how a group of slaves became a free People! One is about reforming what exists and the other is about a holy act of creation itself.

So, if in the past we thought of only one Spring holiday of freedom for our People, perhaps we should think of two:

Purim and Passover. And if we look for the message of the intersection of these two holidays, especially in this time of turmoil in the world, in our nation, and in our local community, we should remember the dualism of the message of our holy texts that we have the ability to help ourselves, but we need God's help to raise our lives to an elevated state.

Put more simply: We need to believe in ourselves, but also remember our faith in something greater than ourselves.

May each of us learn self-confidence, but may we not be so sure of our own "wisdom" as to ignore the transformative power of that which is greater than any one of us or even all of us.

And, in doing so, may we find true freedom.

A truly sweet Passover from me, my wife, Sarah, and this year . . . Matan and Doron!

Rabbi Gerald R. Fox

We are planning

a series of events, in order to make the critical connection between our Jewish identity and values / Israeli culture and customs for the Jewish people in the exceptionally wide area Temple Beth Shalom serves.

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Thank You To the Oneg Shabbat & Kiddush Sponsors For March

Friday, March 4 **Howard & Carol Serotta** in memory of Howard's father, Paul Serotta.

Friday, March 11 **Betty Chaikin** in memory of her sister, Helen Lipkin.

General Donations

Marvin & Irene Siegel in honor of the wedding of their granddaughter Nicole Adams to Sean Murphy on March 11, 2011. Mazel Tov!

Message Card

Betty Chaikin – Happy Birthday wishes to Terry Ciullo

Thank You

And a great big thank you once again to **Rosalie Lieberman** for the bright and beautiful floral arrangement on the Bimah (just love those cute frogs!). We are so lucky to have such a talented artist in our midst!

A heartfelt thank you to **Carl Apter and his son, Ben**, for not only donating but also installing our new, sophisticated security monitoring system. The Temple feels like a truly safe haven now...thank you, thank you!

Get Well

Bernie Cohen, Jackie Fabel, Ida Levin, Marvin Siegel, Burt Stolove, Ira Waller, Toby Waller, Norma Wexler, Sandra Wray (sister of Lill Shender)

Yahrzeit Donations

Stanton & Aimee Levin in memory of their niece, Elizabeth Schmerling.

Ida Levin in memory of her father, Morris Lotstein.

Albert & Barbara Dragon in memory of their aunt, Rose Marcus.

Linda Oram in memory of her mother, Esther Masket.

Beverlee Bearman-Reiter in memory of her cousin, Irwin S. Scherzer.

Carl & Beth Apter in memory of Carl's parents, Robert & Molly Apter.

Barbara Pearlman in memory of her mother, Therese Salus.

Dr. Stephen & Rosalyn Weinstein in memory of Steve's mother, Elsie M. Rosenblatt.

Jack & Rosalie Lieberman in memory of Rosalie's father, Louis Eisenstein.

Len Coplein Library

We have several new additions in our library. You are invited to browse through the library in the office during the week between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Anything you want to know about Jewish religion, customs, humor, travel, etc. is available. Take advantage of our FREE library!

THE TWO-MINUTE HAGADDAH

For those of you who don't have the patience to sit thru a full Seder. The Two-Minute Haggadah, a Passover service for the impatient.

By Michael Rubiner

Opening prayers:

Thanks, God for creating wine. (Drink wine.)

Thanks for creating produce. (Eat parsley.)

Overview: Once we were slaves in Egypt. Now we're free. That's why we're doing this.

Four questions:

1. What's up with the matzoh?

2. What's with the horseradish?

3. What's with the dipping of the herbs?

4. What's this whole slouching at the table business?

Answers:

1. When we left Egypt, we were in a hurry. There was no time for making decent bread.

2. Life was bitter, like horseradish.

3. It's called symbolism.

4. Free people get to slouch.

A funny story: Once, these five rabbis talked all night, then it was morning. (Heat soup now.)

The four kinds of children and how to deal with them:

Wise child – explain Passover.

Simple child – explain Passover slowly.

Silent child – explain Passover loudly.

Wicked child – browbeat in front of the relatives.

Speaking of children: We hid some matzoh.

Whoever finds it gets five bucks.

The story of Passover: It's a long time ago. We're slaves in Egypt. Pharaoh is a nightmare. We cry out for help. God brings plagues upon the Egyptians. We escape, bake some matzoh. God parts the Red Sea. We make it through: the Egyptians aren't so lucky. We wander forty years in the desert, eat manna, get the Torah, wind up in Israel, get a new temple, enjoy several years without being persecuted again. (Let brisket cool now.)

The 10 Plagues: Blood, Frogs, Lice – you name it.

The Singing of "Dayenu":

If God had gotten us out of Egypt and not punished our enemies, it would've been enough. If he'd punished our enemies and not parted the Red Sea, it would've been enough. If he'd parted the Red Sea – (Remove gefilte fish from refrigerator now.)

Eat matzoh. Drink more wine. Slouch.

Thanks again, God, for everything.

SERVE MEAL.

The foregoing may also be substituted with three sentence History of the Jewish People:

They tried to kill us.

We Won.

Let's Eat!

April Yahrzeits

- 4/3 Carl & Beth Apter *in memory of Carl's mother, Molly Apter*
- 4/4 Dr. Joseph & Lillian Hassman *in memory of Lillian's mother, Esther Davis*
- 4/5 Lawrence & Karen Metzger *in memory of Lawrence's father, Eli Metzger*
- 4/7 Laurence & Debra Berger *in memory of Debra's mother, Saundria Nager*
- 4/8 Leon & Harriet Ackovitz *in memory of Leon's mother, Lee Ackovitz*
 Ira & Toby Waller *in memory of Toby's mother, Ceilia Cohen*
 Bernie Cohen *in memory of his wife, Morray Cohen*
 Fred & Marlene Paul *in memory of Fred's father, Max Paul*
- 4/9 Jacqueline & Fred Fabel *in memory of Jackie's grandmother, Rebecca Cantor*
 Larry Goldberg *in memory of his father, Jack Goldberg*
- 4/10 Laurence & Debra Berger *in memory of Debra's grandmother, Bella Hoffman*
 Edith Krimstock *in memory of her brother-in-law, Harry Krimstock*
 John Spinrad *in memory of his mother, Darcy Spinrad*
- 4/12 Susan Orloff *in memory of her grandmother, Yetta Levin*
 Morty & Harriet Liss *in memory of Morty's father, David Liss*
- 4/13 Carl & Beth Apter *in memory of Carl's father, Robert Apter*
 Michael & Carol Albert *in memory of Carol's father, Abe Eisen*
 Albert & Barbara Dragon *in memory of their uncle, Myer Moskowitz*
- 4/14 Howard & Debbie Schlesinger *in memory of Howard's father, Herbert Schlesinger*
- 4/16 Ronald & Lillian Shender *in memory of Lill's cousin, Dr. Harvey Goldman*
 Michael & Marcia Kurland *in memory of Michael's mother, Devera Kurland*
- 4/17 Wendy Martelli *in memory of her mother, Donna Himmelstein*
 David & Janet Maharam *in memory of David's mother, Besse Maharam*
 Daniel-Paul & Eileen Alva *in memory of Eileen's grandmother, Katie Wallach*
- 4/18 Elaine & Joshua Shapiro *in memory of Elaine's mother, Gertrude Nerenberg*
- 4/19 Samuel Fishman
 Ida Levin *in memory of her father, Morris Lotstein*
 Fannie Melnitzer
- 4/20 Edward & Judith Rubin *in memory of Judy's aunt, Celia Bell*
 Eugene Blum & Judith Blum-Crawford *in memory of Gene's mother-in-law and Judy's grandmother, Rebecca Furst*
 Aaron & Joan Grossman *in memory of Aaron's brother, David Grossman*
 Linda Hahn *in memory of her grandmother, Cheitel Hahn*
 Lilyan Cralle *in memory of her aunt, Betty Levin*
 Jennie Segal
- 4/21 Anna Harris
 Donald & Phyllis Hoffrichter *in memory of Donald's mother, Marcella Hoffrichter*
 Stanton & Aimee Levin *in memory of their niece, Elizabeth Schmerling*
- 4/22 Jack & Rosalie Lieberman *in memory of Rosalie's father, Louis Eisenstein*
- 4/23 Bruce & Barbara Nussbaum *in memory of Barbara's mother, Rita Coopersmith*
 Sidney & Shirley Morgan *in memory of Sid's father, Abraham Morgan*
 Dr. Stephen & Rosalyn Weinstein *in memory of Steve's mother, Elsie Rosenblatt*
- 4/24 Linda Hahn *in memory of her aunt, Miriam Schloff*
 Rose Zuckerman
- 4/25 David & Estelle Silver *in memory of Estelle's sister, Beverly Axman*
 Albert & Barbara Dragon *in memory of Albert's aunt, Rose Marcus*
- 4/26 Erika Brooks *in memory of her mother, Carol Brooks*
 Sandra Mazer Moss & William Boyd Deane *in memory of Sandra's grandmother, Dora Boyer Levin*
- 4/27 Albert Greenberg
 Earl & Doris Berger, Gale Hoffman & Philip Goisman *in memory of Doris's father, Gale's grandfather and Philip's friend, Charles Kerstetter*
- 4/28 Herbert & Rita Axelrad *in memory of Herbert's mother, Ruth Axelrad*
 Allen & Natalie Abramowitz *in memory of Allen's mother, Rae Glass*
 Anita Erman *in memory of her father, Bernard Panitch*
- 4/29 Drs. Robert & Roberta Ball *in memory of Bob's father, Simon Ball*
 Linda Oram *in memory of her mother, Esther Masket*
 Seymour & Dorothy Katz *in memory of Dorothy's brother, Jules Perilstein*
- 4/30 Steven & Carol Dranoff *in memory of Carol's brother, Alan Epstein*

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Simply Shirley . . .

Greetings to all my readers!

On March 14th our book club met to discuss the book "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet," by Jamie Ford.

A very interesting discussion was had by all who attended and many opinions regarding this book as well as other topics were discussed. It is and has been a most diversified group of ladies who meet, voice opinions and bring to the table many different viewpoints regarding the story line of the book.

Our next book review will be Monday, May 2nd at 1:30 p.m. and will be held at Ulviye's home. The book will be: "Not Even My Name," by Thea Halo. For further information please contact Shirley at 609-266-8599 or email me, ssmorgan3@verizon.net.

The Purim Dinner was a huge success. Our chef Lill, along with her helper Ron, prepared a delicious dinner. In case you're interested, Ulviye Asal was crowned Queen Esther and Bob Schwab was chosen as Mordechai. Rabbi Fox completed the festivities with each of the guests reading the Megillah.

The main event was the arrival of Matan and Doron Fox who stole the show. They are truly precious and make each holiday so very special by being with us.

Speaking personally, I would like to say these times we share together are very important and special and truly make our Temple and all of you feel like part of our family.

To all of my readers I say "stay well, be happy and healthy reading."

*Til I write again,
Simply Shirley*

Melissa's White House Visit

Melissa Jacoby, attorney and law professor, daughter of Dr. Henry and Gloria Jacoby, was invited to attend a party at the White House on February 25th hosted by President Barak Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. A 40-piece orchestra played, while guests dined on lamb chops, elegant side dishes and spectacular desserts. Melissa was thrilled to meet and speak with the Obamas. Even though during the Clinton administration, Melissa visited the White House on numerous occasions to meet with presidential economic advisors and the press secretary, this was her first opportunity to speak with a sitting president.

A Zissen Pesach!



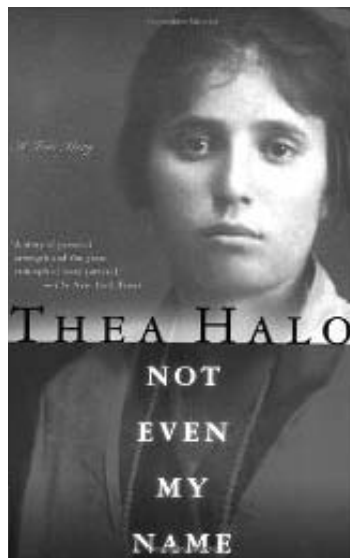
BIRTHDAYS

- 1.....Bernie Cohen
- 4.....Linda Oram
- 8.....Saul Grossman
- 13.....Steven M. Dranoff, Jacqueline Fabel
- 15.....Idie Benjamin
- 17.....Eugene N. Bass
- 20.....Rabbi Gerald R. Fox
- 21.....Beverlee Bearman Reiter
- 22.....Marvin Elfant, Ronald Miller
- 23.....Edith Krimstock, Shirley H. Schreiber

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2.....Dr. Henry & Gloria Jacoby, Ronald & Shelley Miller
- 3.....Howard & Myrna Levin, Marvin & Irene Siegel
- 17.....Steven & Gale Donohue
- 18.....Saul & Sheila Feder
- 22.....Leslie & Susan Tuerk
- 24.....Stephen & Jamie Satz

BOOK CLUB



**"Not Even My Name"
by Thea Halo
Monday,
May 2
1:30 p.m.**

**Hostess Ulviye
1507 W.
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**For more information contact Shirley at
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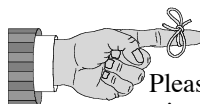
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A Reminder

to all Temple Beth Shalom members
 Please notify the office of any births, engagements,
 marriages, illnesses or deaths. This way the Rabbi,
 Board and Temple membership can be notified. The answering
 machine is on 7 days and 24 hours a day.

**Help Our Temple
 through your donations**

Your donations in memory of loved ones, simchas, our
 Rabbi's Library Fund or Rabbi's Discretionary Fund not only
 help the Temple, but also are a way to remember various happy
 and sad events in your life. Unsolicited general donations are
 needed to help the Temple meet its annual operating expenses.
 Keep in mind, less than 50% of our operating expenses are
 covered by membership dues. Listed below are the various
 items to which you can contribute.

- Bronze Memorial Plaque*\$300
- Leaf on the Tree of Life*\$50
- Oneg Shabbat Sponsor*\$25
- Kiddush Sponsor*\$100
- Message Card*\$5 each
- Yizkor Memorial*Minimum \$10
- Building Fund*Whatever you desire
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund*Whatever you desire
- Library Fund*Whatever you desire
- Kiddush Fund*Whatever you desire