



Congregation Beth David Narragansett, Rhode Island

CBD NEWS ... Spring 2018

Passover: a “cry against indifference”

By Frank Prosnitz

To love Passover, said Elie Wiesel, is to realize it is a “cry against indifference, a cry for compassion” ... and “a story of hope.”

In the preamble to his Passover Haggadah, Wiesel relates today’s global chaos with the exodus from Egypt, the journey that took Jews through years in the desert to a land that would eventually become their home.

“As we recite the Haggadah, which recalls the Exodus of the Children of Israel from Egypt,” he wrote. “we have the strange feeling that, once again, we are living in Biblical times.”

Each year at our Seder table we take time to talk about how the struggle for freedom is an eternal quest. We read of modern struggles, sometimes passing Martin Luther King’s “I have a dream” speech from participant to participant, young and old. We sometimes tell the stories of those still enslaved around the globe, and those who have found freedom. And to the stories of determination, suffering, and hope of those who perished and those who survived the Holocaust

Wiesel recalls the last Passover he celebrated with his parents and family at home “in the small town tucked away in the Carpathian Mountains. By then the region was infested with Germans. In Budapest, they were already planning the deportation and liquidation of our communities, only we did not know it. The Russian front seemed close; at night, we heard the cannons, we saw the sky turn red and we thought that soon we would be free.

“The authorities had forbidden communal prayer in the synagogues, so we arranged to hold services in our house. Normally, on Passover eve, we would chant the melodies with great fervor. Not this time. This time we only murmured the words.

“I remember that Seder, and I shall always remember it. Heads bowed, we silently evoked old memories. We hardly dared ask ourselves if G-d would intervene to save us.

“He had not often intervened in the past. Would He this time?

“Passover is also a story of hope.”



Matzo cover dating back to 1906, found in the Uryn home in Paris and preserved. - photo from the Yadvashem.org website

From Rabbi Adler

KOSHER “FOUR” PASSOVER



The Passover Seder highlights several items that relate to the number 4; the four sons, the four questions, the four children; the four special Sabbaths that precede Passover. In addition, and relating to the number four, we find other references to this number, although in higher multiples. For example, the Jews were enslaved in Egypt for 400 years; Moses spent 40 days atop Mount Sinai when he received the Ten Commandments; the Israelites wandered the Sinai desert for 40 years. But wait, there's more ...

The flood during Noah's time lasted for 40 days. There are four species of plants celebrated on Sukkot; there are four sides to a Dreidel; there were four matriarchs; Jacob had four wives; G-d's holy name contains four Hebrew letters; there were 4 rivers flowing from the Garden of Eden; there are four Tzitziot (fringes) attached to the Tallit. And there are other examples

Why is the number four so prevalent in Jewish tradition? Perhaps because the number 4 represents creation; the sun, moon and stars were said to be created on the 4th day. Similarly, the 4th commandment instructs us to celebrate creation by resting on the Sabbath. Interestingly, the number four is also significant in other religions. But wait, there's more ... The number four seems to carry a special meaning, (*Answer: For E's a jolly good fellow, For E's a jolly good fellow*) perhaps due to the following: the four cardinal points (North, South, East, West); the four seasons; four suits in a card deck; and who would not want to find a four-leaf clover?

You may be interested to know that the number 'seven' is the most prolific number in our tradition, but that's a story for another time.

By the way, what well-known song begins with 4 E's? (Answer hidden somewhere in this newsletter)

Answer: For E's a jolly good fellow, For E's a jolly good fellow

May we all be 'four'-tunate to celebrate the Passover holiday with those we love; may we never 'four'-get that even today, there are too many people who are not free to choose their own destiny.

A meaningful Passover to you and your families, friends, and communities.

Rabbi Ethan Adler

Guest Speaker and Memorial Service to Commemorate Yom HaShoah at CBD



Avinoam J. Pratt, PhD, author of a book that examines the appeal of Zionism for young survivors of the Holocaust and their role in establishing the state of Israel, will help CBD commemorate Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Memorial Day – on Sunday, April 15 at 4 p.m.

We'll commemorate Yom HaShoah with prayers, readings, candle lighting, and kaddish for the six million and for those who have no one to say it for them.

Our guest speaker is Avinoam Pratt, PhD, the Philip D. Feltman Professor of Modern Jewish History at the Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Hartford, where he is also director of the Museum of Jewish Civilization.

Previously, he worked as the Miles Lerman Applied Research Scholar for Jewish Life and Culture at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. He is the author of *Finding Home and Homeland: Jewish Youth and Zionism in the Aftermath of the Holocaust*, which examines the appeal of Zionism for young survivors in Europe in the aftermath of the Holocaust and their role in the creation of the state of Israel.

Professor Pratt's appearance is made possible, in part, by a donation from an anonymous donor.



CBD Jewish Film Series

CBD's showing of the film *Cuba's Forgotten Jewels*, was such a popular event, building on your enthusiasm, we are going to initiate a Jewish Film Series. We hope to present a notable selection of Jewish-themed films three or four times a year.

To show the films for NO CHARGE we are hoping to secure sponsorship for the series. If you are interested in being a sponsor please contact Harris Chorney at hrchorney@verizon.net.

Keep an eye out for the next movie and join your fellow movie lovers.

Purim Carnival



Shayna Cohen, Anthe Verinis, and Izzy Verinis



Ella Litvin



Maya Kaufman, Evie Bayles



Izzy Verinis



Wren Anderson



Hero and Jake Sosnowski

Purim Carnival



Abby Kaufman



Abby Kaufman (left) and Lauren Avedisian



Charles Krumholz



Sorrel Anderson



Rabbis Ethan Adler (left)
and Sol Goodman

Donations, Nov. 29, 2017 - March 23, 2018

General Fund

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Robert Babat

In Memory of father, Aaron Gissen and mother-in-law, Mary Karp

Liz Karp

In Memory of Danny Meyers

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JoAnn and Robert Babat

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In Memory of son Aharon Klum

Marion Myers

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Sally and Harris Chorney

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Wishing a Speedy Recovery to Susan Kirschenbaum

Sally and Harris Chorney
Liz Karp and Peter Stonberg

In Memory of grandfather, Jacob Katzanek

Robin Katzanek

In Memory of father, Walter Markin

Karen Markin

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Shelley and Larry Parness

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Roz Rowen Rossi

In Memory of Jeffrey, Karen and Eric Jacober

Gladys Jacober
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In Memory of mother, Sally Portman Chorney

Nancy Chorney
Harris Chorney

In Memory of mother, Pauline Poulten

Howard Poulten

In Memory of Bertha Jacober and Henry Jacober

Gladys Jacober

In Memory of Miriam Geller

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Robert Babat

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Deborah Chorney

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Florette Brill

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CBD Planning Summer Fundraising Series

A little comedy, a Grammy Award winning singer/songwriter, another iconic singer/songwriter = CBD's summer fundraising program.

Unlike the past two years, when we hosted Peter Yarrow and Livingston Taylor, we've put together three separate programs, providing considerable variety and more exposure for our advertisers and spon-

sors.

These will be performances, coupled with



auctions (live and silent), but sans the dinners that accompanied the previous events.

We have our performers, but we have yet

to finalize the venues for our July and August programs. Our first program in June will be a comedy night of well-known performers from both New York and Boston.

Watch CBD's Facebook page and Constant Contact newsletter for our announcement of the entire program, an announcement we expect to make within the next week.

Congregation Beth David
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Join the CBD Israel Trip

October 16 – 27, 2018



Congregation Beth David is going to Israel in October. The itinerary for our trip has been finalized. It's not too late to join fellow CBD members and friends on our 11-day exploration of Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel Aviv and more.

We will tour major sites of Jewish and non-Jewish importance, including the Western Wall and

Kottel Tunnels, Yad Vashem, and Masada. We will meet with an Israeli settler and Palestinian to hear their perspective on the age-old conflict and need to work together to find a solution.

We will also enjoy an Israeli culinary and wine experience.

If you are interested in joining the group and would like a copy of the itinerary, please contact Harris Chorney at hrchorney@verizon.net.