



*Judaism for Today
In a Warm and Caring
Environment*

קירוב

The Bulletin of Congregation B'nai Israel

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April 2008

FROM THE RABBI

Dear Friends,

Let the madness begin! Passover, or *Pesach*, is really just around the corner. The foresighted among us – myself not included – have already begun the cleaning, doing it little by little. I prefer the frantic cleaning done just days before, driving myself and anyone around crazy. Alas, this year Passover falls just after *Shabbat* and those who clean better under pressure will be under a lot of pressure. See the *Mitzvah* of the Month – you will really need this guide. But that is beside the point.

The Hebrew word *Pesach* refers to God's passing over the houses of the Israelites during the last of the ten plagues. The Torah, on the other hand, refers to the holiday as *Hag haMatzot* — the holiday of the *matzot* (plural of *matzah*). There are, of course, those who say that in Biblical times the two names would indicate two different, yet consecutive, holidays.

Matza opens the Passover story (*HaLachmah Anyah*, this is the bread of affliction), and is present at the closing of the *seder* (when we look for the *afikoman*, and eat it). So let's focus a little on *matzah*.

One fairly general misconception is that the Israelites had no time to wait for the dough to rise, so they baked it anyway and... had *matzah*. However, this idea slightly generalizes the situation: the dough did not receive any yeast or

fermenting agent from the outset – after all, *matzot* were known. It was not the Jews in Egypt who created *matzot* – Lot, Abraham's nephew, offers *matzot* to the two angels that come to visit him in Sodom back in Bereshit¹. So one interesting twist is that the Israelites actually saw they would not have time from the outset – and made the fast-food that was known at that time.

We mark with *matzot* our leaving *Mitzrayim* (Egypt), which is both a symbol for incarceration and bondage and a symbol for the confinement of our larger selves, the ones closer to transcendent ideas, into the narrow places of our souls. Spring is also about renewal and Passover marks a new beginning - and in both, to some extent, we are awakening out of a period of shadow - be it the heaviness of winter, the spiritual fatigue of bondage long ago, or in our present times.

And why *matzah*? Aside from the obvious practical reason stated above, aside from the fact that the "recipe" for *matzah* was known before the Exodus, *matzah* became a symbol on its own – a symbol of the resilience of the spirit of the human being. Passover in general – and *matzah*, in particular – is a return to basics. Made only with water, grain and fire, *matzah* can be seen as the combination of spirituality (represented by water), concreteness (grain) and haste (fire). *Matzah*, as opposed to *chametz*², is not puffed up with hot air, does not have a waiting period in its creation. *Matzah*, being flat, is the symbol for humility,

¹ Bereshit, or Genesis 19:3.

² Leavened foodstuffs that we cannot have or eat on Passover.

which is the ability to say “I don’t know”, the ability to accept criticisms and admit mistakes, and the ability to work with others. And, above all, haste – doing things without losing time. A collection of *Midrashim*, called *Mekhilta deRabi Ishmael*³, says “just as one doesn’t let *matzah* become *chametz*, one doesn’t let *mitzvot* become *chametz*: if a *mitzvah* comes to you, do it immediately”⁴.

Matzah, just like *mitzvot*, represents our relationship with the Holy One of Blessing – and our link to our people. From the point of view of many of our liturgical texts, including the *Hagadah*⁵, God deserves credit for bringing the Israelites out of Egypt; at the same time, the Israelites merit the redemption from Egypt because they manage to bake *matzah*.

This year, may we connect ourselves to the symbols brought by the *matzah*, to be able to leave our personal and collective narrow places of our souls – which our tradition understands *Mitzrayim*, Egypt, to be. May we reconnect to our higher sense of selves and purpose, through this vehicle called *matzah*, and put our internal *chametz* out of our hearts.

Warmly,
Rabbi Nelly Altenburger

Editors Note: Information on *kashering* the home for Passover is included in an appendix to the *Kayruv* (see pages 20-23)

³ Midrashim are commentaries on the Torah, dating from around the first century before common era to the 12th century. Mekhilta deRabi Ishmael is one of the oldest collections, deriving Jewish Law from Biblical verses taken from Exodus 12 to 35. This midrash collection was redacted into its final form around the 3rd or 4th century.

⁴ Parashat Bo, Ushmarthem et

⁵ The text we use to guide us through the telling of the story. There are many versions available, many families do their own, but for our purposes we are talking of the traditional one.

YOM HASHOAH CANDLES ARE HERE!

Renewing our remembrance of the Holocaust becomes more and more fundamental as each year passes: the number of survivors diminishes, and our collective past becomes more and more distant.

On the night of Friday, May 2nd, when each of our families lights a yellow candle, we will be increasing our awareness and strengthening our commitment to keep the flame of memory alive.

These *Yom Hashoah* candles are a strong symbol: Their color recalls the badges the Jews were forced to wear in Nazi-occupied Europe, yet the flame inspires hope that we can make this a world where we all can live in harmony with those who are different.

We have candles for each family in our community. To cover our costs, we would like to ask for a donation of three dollars per candle. Your candle will be available for pick up from now until May 1st. Since many are coming for *Yizkor* on the last day of Passover, you can also pick it up then. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch by phone or e-mail.

Your help is needed for *Maot Hittim*!!

It has been our tradition since the second century to collect "money for wheat", *maot hittim* (donations for the poor for Passover.) The rabbi's discretionary fund helps two families to buy Kosher for Passover foods. Each family needs \$250.00 for celebrating Passover. They really do need our help.

Please send your contribution, of any value, marked Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, to Congregation B'nai Israel, 193 Clapboard Ridge Rd, Danbury, CT 06811 so we can all participate together in the *mitzvah* of *maakhir revuim*, feeding the hungry.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

The unsigned Passover cartoon I recently saw on a Jewish website showed a group of tired and bewildered Israelites gazing at an obviously lost Moses while his wife is pouring over a map with one of the local inhabitants. The caption reads:

“After thirty-nine and a half years of wandering in the desert, Mrs. Moses secretly asks for directions.”

Ain't that the truth?

How often do we expend an awful lot of time and energy looking for a solution when perhaps a bit of creative thinking will set us on the right path? Here in our synagogue, several new or revitalized groups are displaying forward thinking to lead B'nai Israel in new and interesting directions.

The Sustainability (Green) Committee, led by CBI veep Peter Ohring is already making an impact by implementing recycling in our kitchen and office. They've met with a consultant who has donated his services to suggest ways of improving our operations, and the committee itself has recommendations to save energy throughout the building. On June 21 there will be a “Green Shabbat” featuring Rabbi Andrea Cohen-Keiner of the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network that will explore Judaism's relationship to the environment.

The Outreach Committee, chaired by Doreen Waver is exploring ways of bringing Judaism into the larger community to reach those whom we traditionally do not reach within the synagogue. “Passover in the Aisle” on April 13 at the Lake Ave. Stop & Shop in Danbury is their first event and they're already thinking about a children's Chanukah program in an area bookstore.

The Women's Group has been rejuvenated by Alice Cahn and friends and has already held one session around Purim time devoted to the story of Esther. The group plans to continue to create future programs exploring pertinent issues in Judaism. The next meeting will be held on Sunday evening, May 11th with an examination of the character of Miriam as it relates to women's lives today.

And we will be forming a Long Range Planning Committee under the leadership of CBI board member Paul Simon that will explore B'nai Israel's needs as a community and how best to meet those needs in the next several years. We are a unique and inspiring small synagogue surrounded by much larger congregations and need to set a direction to retain our spirit, independence and solvency. No need to schlep in circles for 40 years with Paul at the helm.

Many thanks to Peter, Doreen, Alice and Paul for stepping up to the (Seder) plate.

Passover is a soulful period of remembrance and renewal on a higher level and a heckuva lot of hard work and preparation on a more practical level. Like the Seder, the mission of our synagogue is meaningful and praiseworthy. but like the Seder meal itself, it is not accomplished without lots of effort and cooperation. That's what's happening here!

May each of you have a very special Pesach.

Shalom,
Joel

A MESSAGE FROM THE GREEN COMMITTEE

Dear Friends,

We recently installed a recycling container in the kitchen. It has come to our attention that some of you may not be aware that this particular container is strictly for plastic, glass, and aluminum container disposal only. We would greatly appreciate it if you would put only the appropriate items in this container. Those items are: glass, plastic containers (#1-5), aluminum and other metal cans. **PLEASE do not throw garbage in this container.**

Also in the office is a recycling container for paper.

We appreciate your help in keeping the synagogue green.

Thank you,
Peter Ohring and the
Green Committee

MITZVAH OF THE MONTH

Celebrating Passover just after *Shabbat*

This is a summary of a Responsum written by Rabbi David Golinkin, which can be found at www.responsafortoday.com. The original Hebrew can be read at <http://www.responsafortoday.com/vol59.pdf> and a translation can be found at http://judaism.about.com/library/3_askrabbi_sijs/b1_44_pesachsatnite.htm.

Erev Pesach which Falls on Shabbat (OH 444:1)
Question: *Erev Pesach* this year falls on Shabbat. How should one prepare for the holiday and what should one eat on Shabbat?

Responsum: This is a rather rare occurrence; it has happened only eleven times in the twentieth century. The main laws are as follows:

1) The fast of the firstborn: According to R. Yosef Karo, once the fast is pushed off, it is pushed off entirely [and not observed]. According to the Rema, the fast is moved up to the Thursday before Pesach, and this is the accepted Ashkenazic practice. Thus Ashkenazim should conduct a siyyum on Thursday, the 12th of Nissan, in order to enable the firstborn to eat.

2) The search for the hametz: This ceremony is performed on Thursday evening and the hametz is burned on Friday morning. Technically, it could be burned at any time on Friday since it is not Erev Pesach, but it is burned at the usual time at the end of the fifth hour (10:28 a.m. in Jerusalem) in order not to confuse people the following year.

3) The Shabbat meals: This is the main problem connected with Erev Pesach which falls on Shabbat. On the one hand, according to the Yerushalmi (Pesahim 10:1, fol. 37b) it is forbidden to eat matzah on Erev Pesach in order to eat it at the seder with a hearty appetite. On the other hand, it is difficult to keep hallot in the house on Shabbat when all of the remaining hametz was already burned on Friday morning. Furthermore, it is forbidden to eat hametz on Shabbat morning - which is Erev Pesach - after the fourth hour of the day (9:10 a.m. in Jerusalem).

Indeed, this situation is already mentioned in the Mishnah (Pesahim 3:6), Tosefta (ibid. 3:9, 11) and Bavli (ibid. 49a and parallels) but those sources are not entirely clear and, as a result, four solutions have developed over the years:

1) Rabbi Yitzhak ibn Giyyat (Spain, d. 1089) ignored the Yerushalmi mentioned above or was not familiar with it and ruled that one should eat matzah at all of the Shabbat meals. This custom seems to have disappeared because it contradicts the Yerushalmi.

2) The second approach is based on Pesahim 13a and parallels, which says that one leaves enough hametz for two meals - one on Friday night and one on Shabbat morning before the fourth hour of the day, after which one recites "kol hamira" at the end of the fifth hour, as one does every year. This approach has been followed for hundreds of years, but it is quite inconvenient because one must eat in a corner away from the Pesach dishes and one must make sure no crumbs fall on the floor. Furthermore, one must wake up very early in the morning in order to pray and finish eating hametz by 9:10 a.m. (in Jerusalem) and then discard the hametz outside of the house. Rabbi Eliyahu Hazzan (d. 1908) and others have already criticized this method because of the problems of crumbs, sweeping the house, the prevention of Oneg Shabbat and the fear lest one eat hametz after the permitted time. Therefore, it is preferable to look for another solution.

3) Rabbi Ovadiah Yosef has suggested a third approach - to use matzah, which has been recooked in soup. After the soup cools off, one removes it in whole pieces and dries it out. It can then be used for the second and third Shabbat meals while regular matzah can be used on Friday night because the prohibition in the Yerushalmi does not pertain to the night before Pesach. This method is halakhically valid, but it is difficult to adopt for practical reasons because most Jews will not have the time or patience to follow this complicated procedure.

4) The fourth approach is the simplest and the preferred method - to use "matzah ashirah" (egg matzah) at all three Shabbat meals since it is

neither hametz nor real matzah. It is already mentioned by the Maggid Mishneh (Spain, 14th century) and by Rabbi Yosef Karo. The latter only rejected it for practical reasons, since not everyone could bake egg matzah. R. Haim Palache relates that this was the practice in Ismir in the nineteenth century and it was followed by Rabbi Eliyahu Hazzan mentioned above and by Rabbi Joseph ben Walid. In the twentieth century, it was recommended by Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, by my grandfather Rabbi Mordechai Ya'akov Golinkin z"l, the Av Bet Din of Boston for many years, by my father Rabbi Noah Golinkin, by Rabbi Shlomo Goren, Rabbi Kassel Abelson and others.

As for the third Shabbat meal (seudah shelishit), it is possible to be stringent like the Rema and eat only fruit, meat and fish. But it is also possible to eat egg matzah all day long following the custom of Rabbeinu Tam, Rabbi Yosef Karo and Rabbi Yehezkel Landau.

In conclusion, in our day the fourth custom is preferable. One should search for the hametz on Thursday night, burn the hametz and recite "Kol Hamira" on Friday morning and eat egg matzah on Pesach dishes at all three Shabbat meals.

Prof. David Golinkin is the President of the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, and one of the main figures of the Masorti (Conservative) Movement in Israel.

Pesah Food Guide

The Torah prohibits the ownership of *hametz* (leaven) during *Pesach*. Hametz is anything made of the following five grains: wheat, barley, spelt, oats, rye. Therefore, we arrange for the sale of the *hametz* to a non-Jew. The transfer, *mekhirat hametz* is accomplished by appointing an agent, usually the rabbi, to handle the sale. It is a valid and legal transfer of ownership. At the end of the holiday, the agent arranges for the reversion of ownership of the now-permitted *hametz*. If ownership of the *hametz* was not transferred before the holiday, the use of this *hametz* is prohibited after the holiday as well (*hametz she-avar alav ha-Pesah*).

Since the Torah prohibits the eating of *hametz* during *Pesach*, and since many common foods contain some admixture of *hametz*, guidance is necessary when shopping and preparing for *Pesach*. During the eight days of *Pesach*, *hametz* cannot lose its identity in an admixture. Therefore, the minutest amount of *hametz* renders the whole admixture *hametz* and its use on *Pesach* is prohibited.

Kosher le-Pesach labels that do not bear the name of a rabbi or one of the recognized symbols of rabbinic supervision, or which are not integral to the package, should not be used without consulting your rabbi.

HAMETZ AND NON-PASSOVER UTENSILS: Non-Passover dishes, pots and *hametz* whose ownership has been transferred, should be separated, locked up or covered, and marked in order to prevent accidental use.

THIS IS A LIST OF THINGS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE A KOSHER LE-PESAH LABEL:

Aluminum foil and pans, paper and plastic goods, and plastic utensils.
Candles
Cleansers and cleaners of all types
Detergents, regular, laundry and dishwasher
Canned fish- only if there are no other ingredients other than fish, water, and salt.
Baby ointments
Body wash
Shampoos, conditioners, hair gels, sprays, mousse
Lotions, skin creams and soaps
Hair removers & treatments, shaving cream and gels, shaving lotions
Fabric protectors
Furniture polish
Insecticides
Isopropyl Alcohol
Jewelry and silver polish
Scouring pads & powders
All polishes are fine.
All scouring pads are fine.

THIS IS A LIST OF FOODS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE A KOSHER LE-PESAH LABEL IF PURCHASED BEFORE THE HOLIDAY:

All regular granulated sugar.
All uniodized salt.
Tea bags only if regular (NOT decaffeinated).
All water fine, the same applies with distilled water.
Ground coffee.
All raw meat and poultry without other ingredients, eggs and fish.
All extra virgin olive oils.
Pepper, natural spices;

Frozen fruit juices with no additives; frozen (uncooked) fruit (with no additives).
 Frozen (uncooked) vegetables.
 Milk; butter; cottage cheese; cream cheese; ripened cheeses such as cheddar (hard); muenster (semi-soft) and Camembert (soft).
 Baking soda.

THE FOLLOWING FOODS REQUIRE *KOSHER LE-PESAH* LABEL IF PURCHASED BEFORE OR DURING

PESAH:

All baked products (matzah, cakes, matzah flour, farfel, matzah meal, and any products containing matzah); canned or bottled fruit juices (If one holds by *kitniyot*, see below); canned tuna (since tuna, even when packed in water, has often been processed in vegetable broth and/or hydrolyzed protein - however, if it is known that the tuna is packed *exclusively* in water, without any additional ingredients or additives, it may be purchased without a *kosher le-Pesach* label); wine; vinegar, liquor, oils; dried fruits; candy;

chocolate flavored milk; ice cream; yogurt and soda.

PROHIBITED FOODS include the following: leavened bread, cakes, biscuits, crackers, cereal, coffees containing cereal derivatives, wheat, barley, oats, spelt, rye, and all liquids containing ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol.

KITNIOT - Most Ashkenazic authorities have added the following foods (*kitniyot*) to the above list: rice, corn, millet, legumes (beans and peas; however, string beans are permitted). The Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Conservative movement has ruled unanimously that peanuts and peanut oil are permissible, as peanuts are not actually legumes. Some Ashkenazic authorities permit, while others forbid, the use of legumes in a form other than their natural state, for example, corn sweeteners, corn oil, soy oil. Lactose intolerant and vegetarians have the permission to eat soy derivatives, such as soy milk and tofu, if no other *hametz* ingredients are found. Sephardic authorities, as well as the Conservative (Masorti) Movement in Israel permit the use of all of the above.

MEDICINE: Since *hametz* binders are used in many pills, the following guidelines should be followed: If the medicine is required for life sustaining therapy, it may be used on *Pesah*. If it is not for life sustaining therapy, some authorities permit, while others prohibit. Consult your rabbi. In all cases, capsules are preferable.

 **Cut and Return to synagogue office**

Mehirat Hametz ~ Sale of Hametz

I,
 We _____

Hereby grant permission to
 Rabbi Nelly Altenburger
 to sell all *hametz* in my/our possession at

(address, and please specify where the *hametz* is found eg. *Kitchen cupboard, storage beneath the stairs, etc*)

to Cheryl A. Vanak and receiving it back after
 Passover

Forms are also available in the office

APRIL EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

Sunday, April 13th from 9:30 to Noon - Passover Workshop

If you had fun last year, or if you would like to have fun and learn about Passover before the festival, this workshop is for you!

As we go through eighteen different stations, passing obstacles and doing activities relating to Passover and the *seder*, we learn in a fun way all sorts of interesting and important things about the festival. Judges give you marks, and time is of the essence! Join us for this morning of fun and activities. Everyone is welcome. No previous knowledge required and a lot of fun promised. Date: Sunday, April 13th from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM.

April 13th Passover in the Aisle 11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. An Outreach Committee Event

The Outreach Committee will be holding its first event on April 13th. It will be "Passover In The Aisle," which brings a taste of Judaism to people who may not otherwise participate in Jewish activities. It's a great opportunity to connect with people shopping for Passover items and provide them with low-barrier Passover information, samples of food, and recipes.

This program takes the Jewish community out to where people are, rather than waiting for them to come to us. It is not about membership, it's about making contact with otherwise unaffiliated people during a time when they stock up on Passover items, even if they do not celebrate other Jewish holidays.

We're looking for volunteers to help make this important event successful by lending your time and talents in the following areas: marketing and promotion; soliciting raffle donations; contributing recipes for shoppers; and staffing the table on the day of the event. It's our chance to establish initial, personal connections with our community and share the excitement of the holiday with anyone who stops by.

Please contact Cheryl or Doreen Waver if you are interested in participating. The more the merrier!

PASSOVER SCHEDULE

Please note: 5768 (2008) is one of the years when the day before Passover falls on *Shabbat*. Please pay close attention to the following schedule, because many details are different than other years.

✧ **Thursday – April 17th** – Perform the search for *Hametz* after dark. There is no Fast of the Firstborn this year and no *Siyyum*.

✧ **Friday – April 18th** – Burn the *Hametz* by 11:15A.M.

✧ **Shabbat – April 19th** – One can eat *Hametz* until 10:00 A.M. Note that there is no destruction of *Hametz*, and no burning, since this is *Shabbat*. So if your choice is for a *hametzdik shabbat*, all leftover *hametz* must be consumed. See how to do this dance in the *Mitzvah* of the Month.

✧ **Shabbat April 19th** - we have our regular *shabbat* services beginning at 9:30 AM. The *seder* is supposed to begin after *shabbat* is over, at 8:20 P.M.

✧ **Sunday April 20th** — we have First Day of Passover services, beginning at 9:30 A.M.

✧ **Monday, April 21st** – Second Day of Passover services, beginning at 9:30 A.M.

✧ **Shabbat April 26th** - *shabbat* and the Seventh Day of Passover, services begin at 9:30A.M.

✧ **Sunday April 27th** is the last day of Passover and *Yizkor* will be recited. Services begin at 9:30A.M. Passover ends on Sunday at 8:34 P.M.

LOOKING AHEAD

Save the Date: Sunday, May 4th Green Committee Sponsored “Spring Cleaning Day”

Mark your calendar for the first “**Spring Cleaning Day**” at the *shul*. Many cleaning and updating projects will be tackled on this day. We will be switching to fluorescent light bulbs as well as attacking the mold in the basement. Please mark your calendar and plan to give several hours of your time for this hands-on building improvement day. We need your help to make this day a success! Please email Peter Ohring and let him know you will be there to help out: peter@purchase.edu.

Shabbat, June 21st at 9:30 A.M. “Green Shabbat” with Guest Speaker Rabbi Andrea Cohen-Kierner

Rabbi Andrea Cohen-Kierner of the Eco-Jewish Network will share her insight on Jewish practice and the environment. Rabbi Cohen-Kierner will lead a discussion on ways that we as individuals and as a community can do our part to better protect our environment.

CBI GOES GREEN

The Board of Directors of B'nai Israel, in recognition of the need for our congregation to establish more efficient measures of conservation, has established a new committee with a mandate to evaluate and actualize specific ways of making CBI environmentally friendly.

Peter Ohring, chair of the committee, says, "We naturally are starting with some of the low-hanging fruit and hope to tackle higher branches down the road." To borrow from Peter's metaphor, here are some of the fruitful suggestions that he and committee members Nada Adler, Paula Cook, Peter Hirsch, Lori Mael and Pearl Turk have begun to initiate:

Our kitchen (through active collaboration with Hospitality Chairperson Alice Cahn) has installed a container to recycle glass, plastic, aluminum and other metal cans and Alan Mael has graciously volunteered to bring these recyclables to the recycling center on White Street. Also recommended is the use of glass instead of plastic wine cups for Shabbat. (If you are willing to donate any glass shot glasses they would make a great alternative to plastic). Our office will soon go green through the usage of recycled paper.

A recent energy audit of CBI by New Way, Inc. came up with a number of recommendations. The committee has begun activating their suggestions by disconnecting the basement refrigerator which will remain unplugged except on occasions when needed.

The Green Committee (a.k.a. Sustainability Committee) is planning two important events over the next few months to further their objectives. The first is a spring cleaning day planned for Sunday, May 4th. During this "action packed" day a complete switch to fluorescent light bulbs will be made, mold in the basement will be "attacked", etc. Please mark your calendar and plan to give several hours of your time for this hands-on building improvement day. Remember the old adage, "Many hands make light work." (Perhaps we could update it to say, "Many hands make green work.")

The second event planned is a Green Shabbat to be scheduled for June 21st. Rabbi Andrea Cohen-Kierner from the Eco-Jewish Network will share her insight on Jewish practice and the environment. Rabbi Cohen-Kierner will lead a discussion on ways that we as individuals and as a community can do our part to better protect our environment.

The Green Team will continue to report to you as the flood of enthusiastic and efficient ideas and recommendations pour forth. And the Team invites you to give feedback and become actively involved.

Peter Ohring
Pearl Turk



Won't to make a really cool donation to B'nai Israel?! A gift of an energy efficient refrigerator/freezer to replace the old one now in use would be greatly appreciated!!

GOOD TIMES WE SHARED

SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA



Pam's fruit salad extraordinaire!

On March 7, 2008, members of the B'nai Israel community came together to eat, drink, relax and celebrate at the 12th Annual Shabbat Across America/Canada. As we participated in the scheduled events, we felt a connection and camaraderie with our fellow Jews all over the United States and Canada. Rabbi Altenburger led us in the beautiful Shabbat service and, as we listened and participated, we knew we were part of a tradition and heritage that unifies us spiritually with Am Yisrael.

Of course delicious food is always part of our celebrations and Pam Lampell and Susan Tritter and their helpers saw to it that a scrumptious Shabbat meal was served. We still dream of the tasty brisket, fried chicken, puddings, pasta, vegetables, and trimmings we heartily consumed. We laughed and chatted and reached for "seconds" and "thirds" of the generous helpings.

To cap off this great event, we were treated to a shadow puppet show presented by the Hellers, a professional duo that delighted both children and adults with their marvelous performance of a Yiddish folk tale. Our "demure and shy" first lady Barbara Levitt won the services of the Hellers at an auction for Katrina victims two years ago and graciously donated their performance to us. All in all, it was a wonderful and stimulating evening for all ages. We are already looking forward to next year's celebration.

Natalie Slavin and Evelyn Weinstein

PURIM WORKSHOP



Studying the Book of Esther



Making Hamantaschen...



...a hands-in project

Photos courtesy of Jessica Block

PURIM EXTRAVAGANA!



Vanessa shares *shalach manot*



Give me liberty...



Honolulu Lulu and friends at the bar



A pensive Queen Esther



Creative minds at work



Ninja with dad



The pirates of Koblenz

Photos courtesy of Alice Cahn

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

Miriam and Alan Schacht of Danbury have returned to CBI after a 25 year break. By chance, they visited our Jewish SummerFest last August and aside from the delicious food, they found old friends and some new ones, too! They were warmly greeted by President Joel Levitt and saw the Steins and the Tritters whom they haven't seen in a very long time. Alan made several (other than food) purchases at the festival and they enjoyed the entertainment, meeting the Rabbi, and ALL the Jewish "flavor"!

Alan, the retired Fire Marshal of the City of Danbury, a position he held for 18 years, has probably seen more of CBI than most of us, having officially inspected our building many times in his career at the Fire Department. He belonged to several professional organizations during his 30 years of service. Now he is, in fact, looking forward to becoming a regular minyan-goer and an assistant at anything we need for any of our events. Becoming more observant is one of his goals as well.

Alan has worked in Keogh's Hardware in Ridgefield after a stint at a security company since his retirement. We hope he can be very adept at helping with any "fix-it" projects we have. Miriam, too, is a self-taught carpenter and painter who has recently installed windows and helped to construct a sun porch on their home located right across from Hatter's Park.

Miriam has had a variety of interesting careers, most reflecting her creative and artistic personality. She worked for Welcome Wagon and in real estate and managed an office for some years before she began several home-based businesses, including chocolate (making favors for weddings, showers, etc), and currently has a custom embroidery business called "Elusive Butterfly" which personalizes portraits, scenery and baby items in stitchery!

Miriam is looking forward to helping out, perhaps in our Hebrew School, with arts, crafts and needlework projects. She has many years of teaching experience working with all ages and is eager to help our school kids. She is also in search of a tolerant mahjonn group that will nurture her beginning skills. As far as her involvement in CBI, she would like to help with the coming year's Jewish SummerFest and has some cooking talents that we should probably begin to take advantage of too!

Miriam recently was hospitalized and then went to Bethel Health Care where Rabbi Nelly visited her at exactly the same time that her roommate was being visited by the Deacon from St. Gregory Church. She found it very spiritually uplifting that they were both being blessed for good health in their own religious faiths at precisely the same moment.

Miriam and Alan met when they were babies as members of their extended adult families knew each other and visited between Stamford and Norwalk. Alan says he invited Miriam into the darkroom to see his photography when she was very young and she says they played with his train set. You'll have to check with them to get the whole story!

Rounding out the Schacht family currently is son Scott and their 2 teen grandsons. Living at home now are two Jewish bunnies, Gumdrop and Jellybean, who get along very well with Wanda, a Jack Russell terrier.

We welcome Miriam and Alan to Congregation B'nai Israel and look forward to spending pleasant time in their company and sharing what CBI has to offer with them.

Barbara Levitt

CBI EVENTS & CLASSES

Mondays at 8:30 A.M. Torah With Modern Commentary

Mondays at 7:15 P.M. Hebrew Crash Reading Course

Wednesdays at 7:15 P.M. Services Rendered

Sunday, April 13 at 9:30 A.M. - Passover Workshop

**Religious School: Wednesdays 4:00- 6:00 P.M.
Sundays 9:30-12:30 P.M.**

High School Group: Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00 P.M.

**PLEASE NOTE APRIL SCHOOL SCHEDULE:
April 2, 6, 9, 13 & 23rd - Regular Sessions**

***Wednesday, April 16 - No Class - Spring Recess
*Sunday, April 20 - No Class First Day of Passover
*Sunday, April 27 - No Class Last Day of Passover**

Mazel Tov!

Mazel tov to Joel's mother Anna Levitt, who was recently elected the first-ever president of the Resident Council at Hancock Hall, where she lives in Danbury. Although his Mom has been president for only a month, it's fair to say that at age 94+, she has seniority over Joel.

Mazel tov to Joel, who will be recognized with an Honorable Mention at a Red Cross "Heroes of Western Connecticut" breakfast on April 24 in Danbury.

Stew Leonard's

Gift Card Fundraising Program



Do your shopping at *Stew Leonard's* because the synagogue receives 5% (sometimes 10%) when you shop using the gift card(s).

Call Cheryl at the office (792-6161) for your gift card(s).



Do you enjoy arts and crafts? Sewing? Quilting? Embroidery? Knitting? etc. Then we need your special talents. Our Torah covers are 30 years old and we are looking for people who are skilled and creative to help beautify our synagogue by making new Torah covers.

If you're interested in helping with this project, please call Alice Cahn at 203-794-9152, ShariLynn Kochman at 203-775-2066 or Cheryl in the office 203-792-6161.

SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

Services begin at 9:30 a.m.

✧ **Shabbat, 29 Adar II, April 5, Tazria:** The laws of ritual purity. *Haftarah:* Ezekiel 45:16-46:18

✧ **Shabbat, 7 Nisan, April 12, Metzora:** Continuation of laws of ritual purity. *Haftarah:* II Kings 7:3-20

***Pesach* Schedule:**

✧ **Shabbat, 28 Nisan, May 3, Kedoshim:** The holiness code. *Haftarah:* Amos 9:7-15

✧ **Shabbat, 5 Iyar, May 10: Emor:** We read of the holiness among the priestly class followed by description of holiness in time: The Jewish Holy Days. *Haftarah:* Ezekiel 44:15

CANDLE LIGHTING

April 4, 2008:	7:05 P.M.
April 11, 2008:	7:12 P.M.
April 18, 2008:	7:20 P.M.
April 25, 2008:	7:27 P.M.
May 2, 2008:	7:35 P.M.
May 9, 2008:	7:42 P.M.

Yahrzeits

4 Nisan, April 9, 2008

Pearl Silverstein (Roslyn Friedman)

5 Nisan, April 10, 2008

Max Kruzansky (Sara Kruzansky, Dina Markind)

Sylvia Simon (Paul Simon)

13 Nisan, April 18, 2008

Bertram Sommer, Jr. (Lorie Mael)

15 Nisan, April 20, 2008

Seymour Friedman (Gail Friedman)

17 Nisan, April 22, 2008

Larry Shenker (Martin Shenker)

William Hirsch (Peter Hirsch)

Elias Haller (Phyllis Cooper)

22 Nisan, April 27, 2008

Miriam Lampell (Shalom Lampell)

27 Nisan, May 2, 2008

Ida Goldman (Alvin Goldman)

30 Nisan, May 5, 2008

Leon Feldman (Bonnie Kasiaz)

3 Iyar, May 8, 2008

Maxine Friedman (Gail Friedman)

8 Iyar, May 13, 2008

Rose Friedman (Melvin Friedman)

THANKS! THANKS!

For the General Fund

✧ Toby Shiff in honor of the rabbi and the congregants who have made her feel very welcome

✧ Sharon and Bernard Cohen in memory of Dennis Adler's mother, Edith

✧ Marcia Klebanow in memory of Dennis Adler's mother, Edith

✧ Pam and Shalom Lampell in memory of Dennis Adler's mother, Edith

✧ Natalie Slavin, Evelyn and Michael Weinstein in memory of Dennis Adler's mother, Edith

✧ Lenore Podhouser in memory of Dennis Adler's mother, Edith

✧ Bea Golub in memory of Dennis Adler's mother, Edith

✧ Sol Berman in memory of Dennis Adler's mother, Edith

✧ Caryn and Joe Golden in memory of Dennis Adler's mother, Edith

For the Kay and Harry Robinson Children's Book Fund

✧ Barbara and Joel Levitt

- In memory of Dennis Adler's mother, Edith

- *Refuah Shlema* to Than Durgin

- *Refuah Shlema* to Miriam Schacht

- *Refuah Shlema* to Shoshannah Zimmerman

- In honor of Ruth and Dan Wolinsky

For the Hospitality Fund

✧ Sara Kruzansky in honor of Amos Turk's birthday

✧ Judy, Gary, Jason, Allison and Lisa Ginsburg in memory of Dennis Adler's mother, Edith

For the Mentor-In-Residence Fund

✧ Sara Kruzansky in memory of her husband Max

For Their Generous Kiddush

✧ Susan Tritter

✧ Philip Gelber in memory of his dear wife Mira

✧ David Maser in memory of his mother Helen

✧ Sara Kruzansky in memory of her husband Max