

# Congregation Beth El Bulletin



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Adar II/Nisan 5776

Neal Katz, Rabbi  
Gene Levy, Rabbi Emeritus

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## Rabbi's Corner - **INDEPENDENCE HALL**

I ended my most recent group trip to Israel with a visit to Independence Hall in Tel Aviv—one of my favorite places to end any Israel tour. During the trip, our group visited all of the sites that are important to the Jewish and Christian communities: from the Western Wall in Jerusalem to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem - from the Mount of Beatitudes along the Galilee to the mystical Ari synagogue in Tzfat. In addition to visiting these sites, we also had opportunities to hear from different speakers from across the political spectrum about the state of politics and peacemaking in Israel. To say the least, it was relatively dismal commentary.



discontent. And both sides have a share in the blame. For certain, the Palestinian community has not provided any new leadership that would elevate their community to have dialogue with Israel. Many in their community have yet to renounce claims calling for the destruc-

tion of Israel, they celebrate violence, and they still educate their children to hate Jews. And also for certain, Israelis are emotionally disconnected from Palestinian suffering by a security barrier, military superiority, and the Iron Dome. Israelis

simply endure random and sporadic waves of Palestinian terror attacks - and then resume life as normal. That is the status quo.

Rabbi Ron Kronish spoke with our group about the distinction between "peacemakers" - that is the diplomats and elected leaders and lawyers who

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## QUIZ NITE RETURNS! Saturday, May 7th, 2016

Quiz Nite will be held on Saturday, May 7th this year at the Temple. In the past, Quiz Nite was a fundraiser for the Temple Youth Group, but now it is being expanded into a fundraiser for the whole Temple. In the next few weeks, the congregation will be given a chance to sign up for a seat or table, to become an event sponsor, and send information out to your friends to join us for a night of fun and trivia! We look forward to seeing you on the 7th!





# Schedule of Services

**Friday, April 1**

**Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 P.M.**

PARASHAT SHEMINI: Leviticus 9:1-11:47

HAFTARAH: II Samuel 6:1-7:17

ONEG SHABBAT HOSTS: Mr. & Mrs. Keith Ables

BIMAH FLOWERS: Congregation Beth El Sisterhood Flower Fund

Yahrzeits: March 27-Mariam Leah Denitz Buck, 28-Nathan Julius Ginsberg, Herbert Alfred Jacobs, Morris Jarrett, 29-Gertrude Bergman, Birdie Horwitz Werner, 30-Annette Berman, 31-Helene Davis, Laura Topletz Saffir, April 1-Bernice Epstein Woletz.

**Friday, April 8**

**Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 P.M.**

PARASHAT TAZRIA: Leviticus 12:1-13:59

HAFTARAH: II Kings 4:42-5:19

ONEG SHABBAT HOSTS: Mrs. Margo Adams

BIMAH FLOWERS: Congregation Beth El Sisterhood Flower Fund

Yahrzeits: April 2-Cyril King, 3-Ralph L. Davis, Louis H. Klayman, 4-Philip Harry Lipstate, Jr., 5-Jack Jacobs, 6-Hattie Bell Hamrick, Rebecca Marcus Rubin, Wanda Seawright, 7-Fred Regan.

**Friday, April 15**

**Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 P.M.**

PARASHAT METZORA: Leviticus 14:1-15:33

HAFTARAH: II Kings 7:3-7:20

ONEG SHABBAT HOSTS: Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Darryl

BIMAH FLOWERS: Congregation Beth El Sisterhood Flower Fund

Yahrzeits: April 12-Ida Drayer, 12-Morris Hurwitz, Sigmund Mayer, Irma Bassist Rosenthal, 13-Muriel Mitzie Delar, 14-Jerome Robinson, Elsie Schoenbrun, 15-Louis Berman, Mildred J. Bindler, Betty Taibleson.

**Friday, April 22\*\*\* Please note the time**

**First Night Congregational Seder 6:00 P.M.**

**No Shabbat Service This Evening**

TORAH: Exodus 12:21-12:51; Number 28:16-28:25

HAFTARAH: Joshua 5:2-6:1

BIMAH FLOWERS: Congregation Beth El Sisterhood Flower Fund

Yahrzeits: April 16-Rosalie Englander, Ann Shubert, Abram Wadel, 17-Rae Liebreich Baer, Leopold Schoenbrun, 19-Adelaide Brown, 20-Naphtalie Englander, 21-Selma Greenberg, 22-Johannah Faber, Joyce Greenberg, Sam Levine, Rabbi Stephen E. Weisberg.

**Friday, April 29**

**Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 P.M.**

PARASHAT ACHREI MOT: Leviticus 16:1-18:30

HAFTARAH: Ezekiel 22:1 - 22:19

ONEG SHABBAT HOSTS: Dr. & Mrs. Gary Gross

BIMAH FLOWERS: Congregation Beth El Sisterhood Flower Fund

Yahrzeits: April 24-Ruth F. Block, 25-Theresa Marx Baer, Julius Drayer, Reuben P. Lewine, 26-Sarah Drayer, Judie Shubert Smith, 27-Jacob Selman, Seymour Van Os, Sr., 28-Florence Lubar Gross, Shirley Kosoff, Seymour Richbook, 29-Thelma Miller Nasits.

**Friday, May 6**

**Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 P.M.**

PARASHAT KEDOSHIM: Leviticus 19:1 - 20:27

HAFTARAH: Amos 9:7 - 9:15

ONEG SHABBAT HOSTS: Dr. & Mrs. Larry Rosenfield

BIMAH FLOWERS: Congregation Beth El Sisterhood Flower Fund

Yahrzeits: May 1-Ruth Gross, 6-Raymond Buck Edelman, Helene Williams.

## LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

### BIRTHDAYS:

NAMES READ ON APRIL 1: March 27-Andria Stein, 31-Bobye Smith Freeman, Josh Kaufman, Stephen Sigal.

NAMES READ ON APRIL 8: April 8-Janet Chiniewicz.

NAMES READ ON APRIL 15: April 9-Stephen Wolf.

NAMES READ ON APRIL 22: April 18-Fred Ginsberg, 19-Evelyn Muntz, 21-Dennis Darryl, Jennifer Katz.

NAMES READ ON APRIL 29: April 25-Matthew Seawright, 29-Anita Darryl.

NAMES READ ON MAY 6: May 2-Griffin Goodman, Sandra Greenberg.

### ANNIVERSARIES:

NAMES READ ON APRIL 15: April 13-Natalie & Fred Ginsberg.

NAMES READ ON APRIL 22: 17-Robyn & Scott Lieberman, 21-Suzy & Tim Beck

NAMES READ ON APRIL 29: April 26-Alison & Keith Ables, Judy & Jeff Gottesman.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

*We thank our Congregation Beth El contributors for their kindness and generosity. Their gifts strengthen our congregation.*

### GENERAL FUND



IN MEMORY OF  
DAVID GELFER, FATHER OF SUZY BECK  
By Nez & Mike Gross

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTH OF  
JAMES PEYTON LUCKER,  
GREAT GRANDSON OF EVELYN MUNTZ  
By Nez & Mike Gross

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF  
CONNIE GREENBERG  
By Nez & Mike Gross

### ENDOWMENT FUND

IN MEMORY OF FANNETTE & GERALD SHAW  
By Dorothy & David Shaw

### SISTERHOOD TRIBUTE FUND

IN MEMORY OF  
DAVID GELFER, FATHER OF SUZY BECK  
By Evelyn Muntz

## HADASSAH NEWS



An Open Board Meeting was held on Sunday, March 6th, 10:30 a.m. at Congregation Beth El. Susan Cason-Parks, President called the meeting to order and the minutes from the previous meeting were read. Various up-coming events were discussed and the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

### Upcoming Events:

Sunday, April 10th at 11:30 a.m., a Passover Dish and Recipe Swap will be held at a place to be announced. If you are interested in attending, please be certain to contact sere-nalevine@gmail.com, 956-433-9991 and inform her of what dish you plan to bring.

Sunday, June 12th at 11:30 a.m., Open Meeting and Lunch, Traditions Restaurant, Tyler

Hadassah Book Club: Scheduled reading for April: Still Life by Louise Penny.

Note: The Book Club meets every third Monday at 10:30 a.m., Brady's Coffee Shop, Tyler, unless otherwise specified.

Ruth Goldberg  
Bulletin Chairman

## SISTERHOOD NEWS



Have a great Passover. I hope to see you all on May 15th for our final meeting of the season.

Janet Chiniewicz,  
President

## TOT SHABBAT

Friday, April 8 @ 5:30pm

Families of young children are invited to a "Tot Shabbat" -family friendly service - geared to all children from babies to Bar/Bat Mitzvah age.



save the date

Lila Katz's Bat Mitzvah

May 21, 2016

## ADULT STUDY

We will have two Adult Study classes in April. The first class will be on April 16th and the second will be on the 30th. All classes begin at 11:00 a.m.



## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT @ BETH EL CEMETERY

Sunday, April 10 @ 1pm



Micah Katz will be creating a new entryway to the Beth El Cemetery at Oakwood for his Eagle Project. If you are interested in volunteering that afternoon or making a donation, please contact Jen Katz.

## BETH EL TRAINING WHEELS

Beth El presents Training Wheels. This program focuses on the development of Jewish identity in children ages five and under. The program utilizes music, stories, games, and art projects to instill the building blocks of Jewish identification in our young children. It is run by Jen Katz and meets once a month from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth El.



- April 17th Model Seder with RS
- May 15th Last Day of RS

For more information, contact Jen Katz.

*Rabbi's Corner--continued from page 1*

write peace treaties - vs. "peacebuilders" - that is the people on the street who have to learn to co-exist with one another. Rabbi Kronish works on the "peacebuilder" side - recognizing that eventually, Israelis and Palestinians will have to engage one another. But even Rabbi Kronish admitted a sense of temporary defeat for any peace process. As did our other speakers - a mayor of a West Bank settlement, a worker in a West Bank winery, a high level peace activist, a Palestinian tour guide, and the occasional Israelis we spoke with along our journey. Many of them shared a similar refrain - that the root problem is lack of leadership on either side toward peace. And in that vacuum of leadership, Israelis and Palestinians find themselves in this "status quo" - simply existing from day to day with no signs of a peace agreement likely. The Israelis continue to suffer brutal terror attacks, and the Palestinians still suffer brutal disenfranchisement. And so the cycle continues.

Over the past decade of my trips to Israel, I have witnessed this downward trend of peace optimism. One of the articles that helped color my view of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict was a piece written about 10 years ago by Thomas Friedman. He observed that for much of Israel's existence, making peace with the Palestinians was a **necessity**, while America treated it as a **hobby**. After the second intifada, from 2000 to 2005, Israel lost most of its interest in reconciling with Palestinians. On top of that, Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza in 2005, it has sustained tens of thousands of rockets fired from Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, and now it has to deal with random Palestinian stab-bings. Even with all this, Israel can comfortably defend its borders and sustain a high quality of life - without needing to engage a peace process. At this point, Thomas Friedman writes, Israel now treats the peace process like a **hobby** - while United States now sees Israeli and Palestinian reconciliation as a **necessity**. So in the past decade, our interests have become misaligned. America—and others—have tried mightily to advance the peace process - and it has always come up fruitless - while Israelis have let peace talks take a backseat.

What we do know - is that there will have to be a seismic shakeup in leadership and vision to bring everybody back to the table. As an unabashed peace-nik, this is still my hope. During this last trip, I continued to wrestle with this difficult reality - that while the Jewish State requires a strong military defense and offense, the Jewish Soul still yearns for peace.

After learning and struggling and processing all of this during my trip - as I do every trip - I ended my time in Israel at Independence Hall in Tel Aviv.

Independence Hall is the former home of the first mayor of Tel Aviv, Meir Dizengoff - which was later turned into a City Art Museum - which was later used as a makeshift government building for pre-state Israel. It was in the main art gallery room of this building on Rothschild Boulevard, that David Ben-Gurion declared Israel into existence with his famous speech on May 14th, 1948. As you visit Independence Hall, the tour guide points to the oversized picture of Theodor Herzl on the wall flanked by draping Israeli flags, the actual wooden chairs on the dais used by pre-state officials, and the radio microphone Ben Gurion used to read the Declaration of Independence aloud. At the museum, they play an audio recording of his speech (which you can watch on YouTube), and it ends with an orchestra on the second floor playing the Israeli National Anthem, Hatikva. As soon as that is over, Ben Gurion exclaims that the meeting is over - now go home.

I love that little piece of Israeli history because for me, it represents pure Zionism. It marks that actual moment when the dream of building a Jewish state turned into the creation and maintenance of a Jewish State; when Israel went from being an idea into a reality. And it has been a hard reality ever since. From war to war, from intifada to intifada, from UN bashing to UN bashing, from historical revisionism to the BDS movement, from military aggression to international de-legitimization - Israel is the miracle that keeps on being a miracle.

I recognize that in that moment, on May 14th 1948, Ben Gurion's Declaration of Independence was not a foregone conclusion. There were many people in the pre-state government who felt that it was premature. Yet Ben Gurion seized that moment and decided it was now or never. Every time I visit Independence Hall, I am filled with a sense of pride and wonder for the men and women who decided to press forward and declare the Jewish State into existence - even with the perilous reality of protracted war. Yet, because of their determination and belief in what was right, the Jewish people have a permanent address.

It does my soul good to finish every trip at that one place of unadulterated Zionism - Independence Hall. A place where every day the tour guides remind thousands of visitors of Theodor Herzl's famous declaration regarding Israel, that "if you will it, it is no dream - to be a free people in our own land." It is a dream that each generation - in Israel and abroad - has to make real anew.

As we approach the season of Passover, Jen and I wish you all a chag sameach - a happy and healthy Passover.

To peace,  
Rabbi Neal Katz

# April 2016

אדר 2/ ניסן 5776

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p><b>פסח</b></p>					<b>1</b> 7pm Erev Shabbat Hosts: M/M Keith Ables	<b>2</b> SHABBAT SHEMINI
<b>3</b> 10:30am Religious School	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 5:30pm Tot Shabbat  7pm Erev Shabbat Host: Mrs. Margo Adams	<b>9</b> SHABBAT TAZRIA
<b>10</b> 10:30am Religious School  10:30am Hebrew High	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7pm Erev Shabbat Hosts: M/M Dennis Darryl	<b>16</b> SHABBAT METZORA  11am Adult Study
<b>17</b> 10:30am Religious School  10:30am Training Wheels  10:30am Hebrew High	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7pm Board of Trustees Meeting  	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6pm Congregational Potluck Seder for registered guests	<b>23</b> SHABBAT   Pesach 1
<b>24</b> 10:30am Religious School  Pesach 2	<b>25</b>  Pesach 3	<b>26</b>  Pesach 4	<b>27</b>  Pesach 5	<b>28</b>  Pesach 6	<b>29</b> 7pm Erev Shabbat Hosts: D/M Gary Gross  Pesach 7—over at sundown	<b>30</b> SHABBAT  11am Adult Study



Congregation Beth El  
Passover Potluck Seder  
**Friday, April 22, 2016 at 6:00pm**

This year, as we celebrate Passover, Beth El will be trying a new approach to our first night seder—we will hold our Passover Seder potluck style! A number of other congregations hold their seders this way—with great success.

This will be similar to other potlucks that we host. The rabbi will arrange the main dish, and people will sign up to bring specific side dishes. This twist is that all of the dishes must be chosen from the sign-up list—and all foods must be prepared appropriately for Passover.

**COST**

\$15 per adult member of the congregation, and \$25 for non-members.

*Family guests of congregational members can pay the member rate.*

All children (13 and under) will be \$8.

If you choose to make a donation on top of your registration fee, that will be welcomed.

These costs will help defray the expenses of kitchen help, store-bought items, and the main dish.

**SIGNING UP**

It is preferable to sign up and pay your registration online—at our website that will keep track of the sign-ups and dishes. That online sign-up can be accessed from the temple website:

**JewishTyler.com**

*(and click on the Passover Potluck link)*

Or, if you prefer, you may call Dian at the Temple (903-581-3764) and register your space(s) over the phone. If you choose this option, you can talk then with Rabbi Katz about the dishes needed.

**Ultimately, your online payment or check is your official registration.**

>>> The deadline for registering is April 15th. <<<

This is a trial year for the Passover Potluck—and we will see how it turns out. Please visit the web-site above—or you can find a link on JewishTyler.com—and sign up for your dish.

Passover will begin on Friday, April 22nd at sundown and end the following Friday at sundown (the Reform Movement follows the biblically mandated 7-day observance—since the rationale for an 8-day observance outside of Israel is antiquated.)

**Everything's Coming Up  
MOSES**



## PASSOVER—PESACH—פסח

Pesach, known as Passover in English, is a major Jewish spring festival, commemorating the Exodus from Egypt over 3,000 years ago. The ritual observance of this holiday centers around a special home or congregational service called the seder (meaning "order") and a festive meal; the prohibition of chametz (leaven); and the eating of matzah (an unleavened bread). On the fifteenth day of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar, Jews gather with family and friends in the evening to read from a book called the haggadah, meaning "telling," which contains the order of prayers, rituals, readings, and songs for the Passover seder. Today, the holiday is a celebration of freedom and family.



The name Pesach is derived from the Hebrew word pasach, which means "passed over," which is also the source of the common English name for the holiday. It recalls the miraculous tenth plague when all the Egyptian firstborn were killed, but the Israelites were spared.

The story of Passover originates in the Bible as the telling of the Exodus from Egypt. The Torah recounts how the Children of Israel were enslaved in Egypt by a Pharaoh who feared them. After many generations of oppression, God speaks to an Israelite man named Moses and instructs him to go to Pharaoh and let God's people go free. Pharaoh refuses, and Moses, acting as God's messenger brings down a series of 10 plagues on Egypt.

The last plague was the Slaying of the Firstborn; God went through Egypt and killed each firstborn, but passed over the houses of the Israelites leaving their children unharmed. This plague was so terrible that Pharaoh relented and let the Israelites leave.

Pharaoh then regretted his decision and chased the Children of Israel until they were trapped at the Sea of Reeds. But God instructed Moses to stretch his staff over the Sea of Reeds and the waters parted, allowing the Children of Israel to walk through on dry land. The waters then closed, drowning Pharaoh and his soldiers as they pursued the Israelites.

The Torah commands an observance of seven days of Passover. Many Jews in North America and all Jews in Israel follow this injunction. Some Jews outside of Israel celebrate Passover for eight days. The addition of a day dates back to 700-600 B.C.E. At that time, people were notified of a holiday's beginning by means of an elaborate network of mountaintop bonfires. To guard against the possibility of error, an extra day was added to many of the holidays. Today, a dependable calendar exists, allowing Jews to know when holidays start and end. However, the process remains ingrained in Jewish law and practice for some Jews living outside of Israel today.

One of the many fun customs associated with Passover is to search for, collect, and destroy any chametz (leavening or grain that ferments) in the house. Children are particularly enthusiastic about this "search and destroy" mission. Look any place in the house where chametz was used during the year. Before the search a blessing is recited (below). Once you have collected all of your leavened products—you should discard them (or in some cases quarantine them from use during Passover). An ancient custom of selling chametz to non-Jews is an idea that is offensive to many modern Jews. Jews are responsible for their own mitzvot—so we take it upon ourselves to rid our homes of leavened products.

*Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread; on the very first day, you shall remove leaven from your houses . . . (Exodus 12:15)*

The blessing recited before searching for chametz is as follows:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל בְּעוֹר חֵמֶץ.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al biur chametz.

*Blessed are You, our God, Ruler of the world, who sanctifies us with mitzvot and calls upon us to remove chametz.*



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