



Congregation Beth El

A seasonal, egalitarian synagogue affiliated with the Conservative Movement

Founded in 1947

32 Gorton Avenue • Old Colony Beach • Old Lyme, CT • 06371

website: www.synagogueoldlyme.org

Nisan 5782

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*z"l May their memory be for a blessing



Shalom Congregation Beth El members and friends,

I hope you've all had a healthy and safe winter. Spring is here, which means it won't be too much longer before we gather again at Old Colony Beach and CBE, our little shul at the shore!


This summer is a special one for Congregation Beth El because this year marks our 75th year serving the Jewish community of Old Lyme and the surrounding area. Opened in 1947, our congregation has maintained services continuously during all 75 years, using Zoom when we couldn't be together in person because of the Covid pandemic.

At this point in time, we look forward to continuing our Friday Evening services in person and also a return to our July and August ice cream socials and book sales. To these we hope to add some new events, such as Shabbat Under the Stars and Havdalah on the Beach. Best of all, we will celebrate our 75th anniversary with a party mid-summer for all to enjoy!

We will reach out soon with dates for all our events, so you can add them to your calendar and not miss any. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

On behalf of the Board, we wish you a Happy Passover. *Chag Sameach!*

Lisa



This summer, Congregation Beth El will celebrate
75 years of service to the OCB Community!
Watch for commemoration details!



A Zissen Pesach to all! Chag Pesach Kasher v'Sameach!



Thank you for your generous donations!

Lisa Semel & Jon Guthart - In honor of the birth of Deborah & Ira Feigenbaum's grandson, Ayal Gilad Levine.

Cindy & Phil Rischall - In honor of the birth of Deborah & Ira Feigenbaum's grandson, Ayal Gilad Levine.

Natalie Mandell - In honor of the birth of Deborah & Ira Feigenbaum's grandson, Ayal Gilad Levine.

Ruth Spitz and Sharon Waxenbaum - In memory of our beloved grandmother, Grace Gordon Snyder, at the time of her *yahrzeit*.

Kim & Jay DiBella and Mindy & Jeremy Jason - In memory of Randy Bobrow at the time of his *yahrzeit*.

Ruth Spitz and Sharon Waxenbaum - In memory of our beloved mother, Adelle Snyder Wiener, at the time of her *yahrzeit*.

Sharon & Preston Waxenbaum and Family - In memory of Uncle Martin Waxenbaum at the time of his *yahrzeit*.

Milestones & Mazal Tovs

Deborah & Ira Feigenbaum - On the birth of their grandson, Ayal Gilad Levine, on December 24, 2021. His proud family includes parents, Tamar & Jason Levine, big sister, Orli and grandfather, **Fenimore Feigenbaum**.



Shabbat and Passover Candle Lighting Times

Erev Shabbat	Friday	April 1	6:59 pm
Erev Shabbat	Friday	April 8	7:07 pm
First Seder	Friday	April 15	7:14 pm
Second Seder	Saturday	April 16	8:16 pm
Erev 7th day	Thursday	April 21	7:21 pm
Erev 8th day	Friday	April 22	7:22 pm
Erev Yom HaShoah	Thursday	April 28	sundown
Erev Shabbat	Friday	April 29	7:29 pm

Bedikat Chametz - Or why is a search for chametz conducted on the night before Passover eve?

With regard to *Pesach*, it is written in the Torah: *“Throughout the seven days unleavened bread shall be eaten; no leavened bread shall be found with you and no leaven shall be found in all your territory. And you shall explain to your children on that day, saying: It is because of what the Lord did for us when we went free from Egypt.”* (Exodus 13:7-8)

The *Bedikat Chametz* custom has evolved that, once your home has been thoroughly cleaned for the holiday, the process of removing all *chametz* (leavened food), seen or unseen, concludes with a symbolic search for any last trace of it. This takes place after sundown on the 14th of Nisan, which falls this year on **Thursday, April 14th**.

To make sure that the search is successful, it has become a tradition for adults to hide several pieces of bread/crackers throughout the house to be found and collected by children. While this is done to engage our children in holiday preparations, all adults, even single men and women living in their own homes, are obligated to carry out this ceremony.

Using a candle for light (although a flashlight is a safer alternative), those present go from room to room to locate the errant crumbs, which are then swept with a feather onto a wooden spoon. The candle, feather, spoon and *chametz* are placed in a paper bag and burned by **10:30 am on Friday morning**. While there are varied customs as to the number of *chametz* pieces used, just be sure to keep track of how many have been hidden to avoid an unfortunate mid-Pesach surprise!



Before the actual search begins recite this blessing:

Baruch Atah Adonai, Elohaynu, Melech Ha'Olam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al bi'ur chametz.

Praised are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has made us holy with mitzvot and instructed us to remove the leaven.

“New-ish” Jewish Holidays

While Passover is said to be the most observed holiday throughout the Jewish diaspora, the 20th century has brought four modern holidays into our ongoing and developing traditions.



Yom HaShoah - Holocaust Memorial Day

Thursday, April 28th/27 Nisan

The Israeli Knesset designated the 27th day of Nisan as the official day of mourning and memorial for the victims of the Holocaust. It was on that date, in April 1943, that the Warsaw Ghetto uprising began. (established in 1959)

Yom HaZicaron - Remembrance Day

Wednesday, May 4th/3 Iyar



The day before Independence Day is a solemn day of memorial for those who gave their lives to preserve the State of Israel. (established in 1963)



Yom HaAtzmaut - Israel Independence Day

Thursday, May 5th/4 Iyar

Israel became a nation on May 14, 1948, 5 Iyar 5708. The official name of Israel is *Medinat Yisrael*, *medinat* meaning state or nation.

Yom Yerushalayim - Jerusalem Day

Sunday, May 29th/28 Iyar



This day marks the unification of Jerusalem after the Six Day War in June 1967.



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Yom HaShoah Thursday, April 28th

Less than a week after we conclude our Passover celebration, we observe Yom HaShoah, “Day of the Whirlwind.” It is a time set aside to recall the Holocaust and the incredible disaster that befell the Jewish people and others who were murdered.

This year, Yom HaShoah begins on the evening of Thursday, April 28th. Many synagogues and organizations hold special services and educational programs at this time or on the next day. Zoom or streaming information for such remembrances can be found online.

It is a tradition to light a *yahrzeit* candle, a memorial candle, at sunset that evening and to recite *Kaddish*, the mourner’s prayer, or other appropriate readings such as this one:

*God, full of mercy, this Yom HaShoah, we remember
the six million Jews and the five million other people
murdered by the Nazis’ attempts to
exterminate those who were different,
those who were the other.*

*May their souls forever be sheltered
beneath the wings of Your Divine Presence.*

*Their deaths teach us the grave dangers of
moral failing and indifference to evil.
May we honor their memories by
standing up to hatred in our midst today.*

*This Yom HaShoah, we pay tribute to
the righteous ones amongst the nations who
sheltered Jews during the Holocaust,
risking their own lives to save those in danger.*

*Today, as we remember, may we commit ourselves to
building a world free from hatred and persecution,
a world where all may live freely and with dignity.*

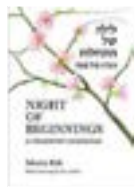
(HIAS Yom HaShoah reading)

Place the *yahrzeit* candle in your window to remind our children, and others, that the Holocaust did happen.

*“Let it be an act of remembrance, for that is what
the victims wanted, to be remembered, at least to be
remembered.”*

Elie Wiesel

Telling Our Story - New Passover Titles



Night of Beginnings: A Passover Haggadah

by Marcia Falk

This acclaimed poet, liturgist and Judaic scholar travels the delicate balance between modern perspective and traditional views, inviting readers to explore centuries-old Seder customs as well as her own fresh reflections on hymns, psalms and other Pesach themes.

Pictures Tell: A Passover Haggadah.

by Zion Ozeri



In the preface, Ozeri notes that the Seder "is a reflection of Jewish connection across both time and space." The author, a veteran Israeli photographer who has spent decades chronicling far-flung Jewish communities, asks readers to use the photographs he has included as jumping-off points for Seder discussions.

Becoming Elijah

by Daniel C. Matt



Elijah is a guest at every Seder. How did he become a permanent invitee to the Pesach table? Why does he have a seat at every bris and a starring role in Jewish folklore? Ultimately, the author concludes, Elijah is a figure of hope. Matt gives a thorough look at the legendary prophet and explores how the zealot was transformed into a man of compassion.



A Persian Passover

by Etan Basseri, Illus. by Rashin Kheiriyeh

This story shares the distinct sights and traditions of the Iranian Jewish community as siblings Roza and Ezra help with their family's Pesach preparations. It is based on the experiences and customs of the author's father, who grew up in Iran of the 1950's.



Alone Together on Dan Street

by Erica Lyons, Illus. by Jen Jamieson

During pandemic lockdowns, thousands of Israelis took to their balconies to sing traditional tunes during Passover. This tale of resilience and empathy introduces us to Mira who misses being with family and friends. As she practices the Four Questions on the balcony of her Jerusalem apartment, she ends up inspiring her lonely neighbors.



Raquela's Seder

by Joel Edward Stein, Illus. by Sara Ugolotti

Young Raquela yearns to experience a seder and her parents prepare to honor her request in secret on a boat out at sea. This story captures the hopes, fears and sadness of conversos, Jews who remained in Spain during the Inquisition and hid their Judaism.

Jewish books make great afikomen gifts!



(Thanks to Leah Finkelshteyn Hadassah Magazine March/April 2022)



*YOU aren't helpless against anti-Semitism!
Invite two friends to their first Seder and build strong
interfaith bridges that can last a lifetime.*

We all feel powerless in the face of hatred. But one thing can make a difference – sharing the joy of the Seder with our non-Jewish neighbors. Learning about a different religion through a direct experience allows your guests to make their own decisions about Judaism.

- Sharing their first Seder permits guests to experience a holiday without having to feel like outsiders. They are participants, reading from the Haggadah and eating unique Passover food like everyone around the table. Once you have this positive Jewish experience, no one can take it away.
- The unknown can be scary – knowledge is critical to fighting hate! When you don't know about a topic or a culture, it's easy to listen to negative things about it. This is an opportunity to not just learn, but to directly experience a Jewish holiday.
- By reaching outside your comfort zone, both hosts and guests begin a relationship of trust and learning. Building an interfaith bridge of understanding and support is a two-way bridge. How far it goes is up to you!

Push back against anti-Semitism with love and matzah!

Go to **2forseder.org**

Learn how to hold a 2forSeder • receive a Seder kit by email • read FAQ

Congregation Beth El has Cards for Every Occasion!

You can acknowledge a loss or happy occasion such as a graduation, anniversary, birthday or wedding with a card from CBE! If you make a contribution to the synagogue, **Carol Bojarski** will send one for you! Call her at 860-508-3635 or email her at cbojo9@hotmail.com.



We also have cards with a picture of the synagogue on the front and plenty of room for your message inside! Purchase a packet of cards and you will have one on hand!



Project Re-Connect

Congregation Beth El would like to re-establish connection with former members of our synagogue community, regardless of where they now live.

We maintain a database of emails, phone numbers and addresses of current and former members. If you know of people who might like to receive our newsletter and announcements, and perhaps participate in a Zoom service, please send their names and email addresses to **Brian Cutler** at:

beachshulmembership@gmail.com

The Jewish History of Macaroons

This chewy mound of flake coconut bound together with egg whites is a traditional Passover goodie. However, the macaroon was most likely a Christian-Italian creation. "Macaroon" stems from the Italian "maccherone," meaning "paste" (referring to the almonds that were the base ingredient). It is believed that macaroons first appeared in Italian monasteries around the 8th century. The original recipe utilized almond paste and egg whites, but no coconut.

Italian Jews staked their claim on this confection as a Passover dessert due to it requiring neither leavening nor flour. When it was discovered that coconuts were far more resilient to rot than almonds, shredded, dried coconut replaced crushed almonds in macaroons produced in the New World. By the turn of the 20th century, Jewish immigrants keeping kosher for Passover in their adopted home, followed suit with this swap.



Thanks to Joanna O'Leary/Jewish Learning 03/21

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5 Strategies to Interrupt Antisemitism in Everyday Conversation

We all have a responsibility to remember the atrocities of the Holocaust and to combat present day antisemitism to fulfill our promise of "Never Again." Below you will find strategies to implement in conversations to interrupt all forms of bias. Practice them with friends and families so you are prepared to use them should the need arise.

SPEAK UP.

- "Let's pause the conversation here to reflect on something that was just said"
- "That sort of language/behavior is not acceptable here."
- "Ouch! Let's talk about that a bit more."
- "What I just heard was not OK."

EXPLAIN IMPACT.

- "Do you know how that symbol makes some people feel?"
- "When you say that, it is really damaging to an entire group of people."
- "Statements like that have a long history of causing pain and fear for entire communities."

CIRCLE BACK.

- "Something you just said doesn't sit right with me. I need some time to think about it before we continue this conversation."

ASK QUESTIONS.

- "What do you mean?"
- "What do you know about the history of the language you just used?"
- "Do you mean everyone who is _____ or are you speaking of someone in particular?"

CONNECT TO A HISTORICAL CONTEXT.

- "What you said feeds into an old stereotype. Let's talk about where that comes from..."
- "You may not realize it, but that language has a long history of disrespect, violence, and oppression..."
- "Let me explain how that language was historically used to talk about people..."



ADL, FJMC, WICL and USCJ remember the six million Jews whose lives were cut too short by the Nazi regime and their collaborators during the Holocaust.

We are
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Woman's League of Conservative Judaism

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fjmc

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