

# SIM SHALOM

OUR NEWSLETTER

Adar-Nisan 5770

March-April 2010

## TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

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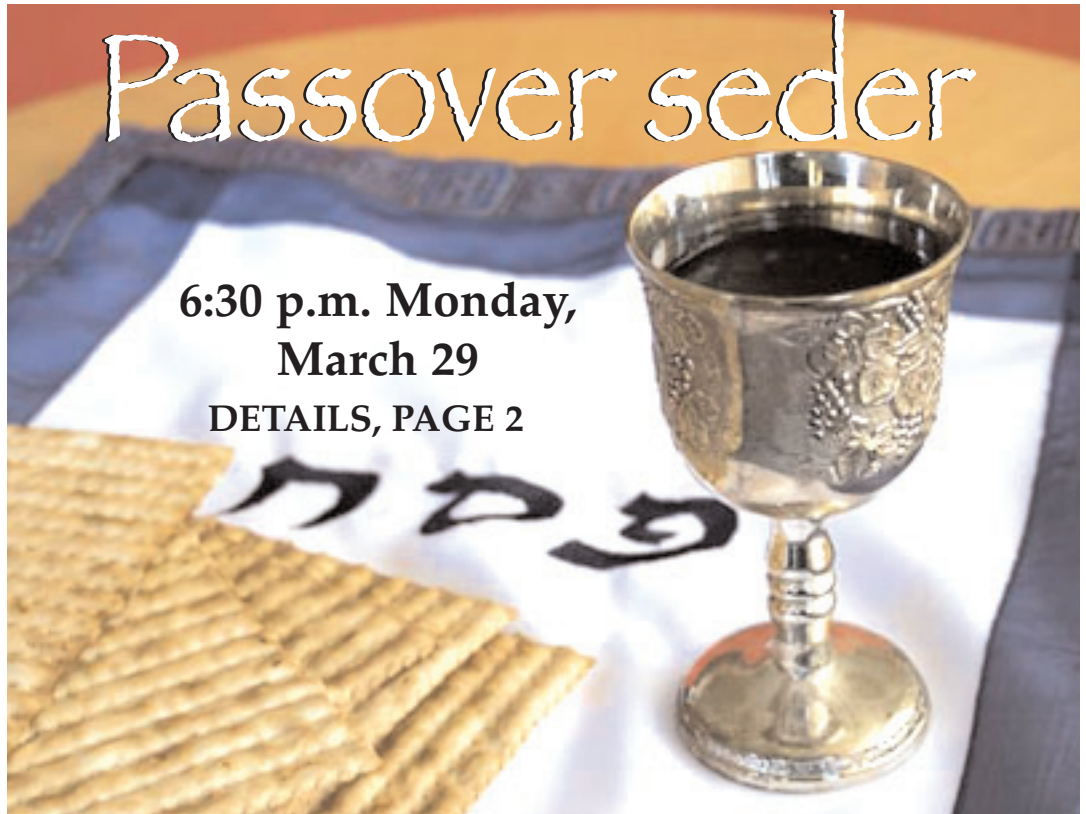
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6:30 p.m. Monday,  
March 29

DETAILS, PAGE 2

## From the Rabbi

Shalom,

In Deuteronomy 32:7 we read, "Remember the days of old. Consider the generations long ago. Ask your fathers to recount it, and your elders to tell you the tale."

The Seder service on Passover is the oldest surviving ritual in the Western world, dating back some 3,300 years to the night, possibly in the reign of Ramses II, when the Israelites ate their last meal in Egypt, preparing for their journey to free-

dom. Certain features still remain from Biblical times — the matzah and maror, the reminder of the Paschal offering (a mere reminder as traditional Jews believe the Temple in Jerusalem will one day be rebuilt), the questions asked by a child, and the explanations given by an adult.

In some, especially Mediterranean and African communities, it is still the custom to dress as the Israelites did then — in clothing

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**Please note some new rules about children's behavior at Temple, Page 4**

## CALENDAR

**FRI., MAR. 26**  
Shabbat Service, 7:30 PM

**SAT., MAR. 27**  
Shabbat Service, 9 AM  
Havdallah/Basic **NEW!**  
Judaism Class, 6:30 PM

**SUN., MAR. 28**  
Religion School, 10 AM

**MON., MAR. 29**  
Passover Seder, 6:30 PM

**FRI., APR. 2** **NEW!**  
Shabbat Service, 8 PM

**SUN., APR. 4**  
Religion School, 10 AM

**SUN., APRIL 11**  
Religion School, 10 AM  
Annual Meeting, 12:15 PM

**SUN., APR. 18**  
Religion School, 10 AM

**FRI., APR. 23**  
Shabbat Service, 8 PM

**SAT., APR. 24**  
Shabbat Service, 9 AM  
Havdallah/Basic **NEW!**  
Judaism Class, 6:30 PM

**SUN., APR. 25**  
Religion School, 10 AM

**SUN., MAY 2**  
Religion School, 10 AM

**FRI., MAY 7** **NEW!**  
Shabbat Service, 8 PM

**SUN., MAY 16**  
Religion School, 10 AM

**FRI., MAY 21**  
Shabbat Service, 8 PM  
Confirmation Shabbat

**SAT., MAY 22**  
Shabbat Service, 9 **NEW!**  
Havdallah/Basic  
Judaism Class, 6:30 PM

## NEWS AND NOTES

■ **PASSOVER is almost here**, and the temple's Community Seder is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 29. **Reservations need to be made by Monday, March 22.** The cost is the same as last year: \$30 for adults 13 and older; \$15 for children 6 to 12; and free for those 5 and younger.

We will need help from congregants to set up the room and the tables. Also, we will need help arranging the seder plates and donating some ingredients. Please contact Fernando R. or Laurel S. if you can help. Send your check to reserve a place to Laurel Steinberg, 613 W Saint Charles St, Brownsville, TX 78520. Your check is your reservation.

**Model Seder:** On Sunday, March 28, the children of the Religion School will participate in a model seder at 12:15 p.m., led by Rabbi Joseph. They will learn or review the important parts of the seder and be prepared for the real seder on Monday night.

■ **ANNUAL MEETING** and pot luck lunch will take place on Sunday, April 11, at the temple social hall. The pot luck lunch will be at 12:15 pm, with the meeting to follow. Please come to socialize, to vote on temple issues, and to express your opinion about what you would like to see happening at the temple.

The slate for the **temple board of directors** is being prepared at this time: The congregation will vote for the board of directors for 2010-2011 at the annual meeting on Sunday, April 11. If anyone is interested in serving on the board next year, please contact Janet Wilder at 956-423-2910 or Laurel Steinberg at 956-550-9530.

#### ■ TREASURER'S REPORT

Temple has a cash balance of \$19,150. Expenses between now and High Holy Days are projected to be \$28,514. Dues outstanding are \$12,995. Dues paid last month total \$1,215.00. We project a short-fall of \$9,364. Long-term note to remodel the Sunday School is \$6,000.

*Respectively Submitted,  
Bert Wolf*

■ **FRIDAY NIGHTS:** please note Shabbat services will again start at 8 p.m. after Passover.

The temple is holding an additional **Erev Shabbat** service each month, led by Fernando Russek at 8 p.m. on the first Friday of the month. We are trying this new service for a few months; attend now if you're interested in additional services!

■ **BASIC JUDAISM CLASS**, taught by Rabbi Joseph after Havdalah on Saturday evenings when he is in Harlingen. The one hour class begins at 6:30 p.m. and covers the basic principles of Judaism.

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## From the Rabbi

*From Page 1*

suitable for travel, ready to leave at a moment's notice.

The Seder is, of course, more than a ritual. It is an act of remembering: the telling of a story — the Haggadah — and none has been more lovingly sustained.

Each age has added and continues to add something of its own. In the course of a single night, we encounter Hillel in the days of the Second Temple, the second-century sages at their Seder in B'nai Brak, the teachings of the Amoraim of the third century, poems from the post-Talmudic period, material added due to the terrible sufferings of the First Crusade, children's songs from medieval Germany, and the national anthem of the modern state of Israel.

Every word we say has a history. Even the Mah Nishtanah, the questions asked by the youngest child, goes back 2,000 years.

In every age we continue to create new Haggadot. One of the best new Haggadot with commentary is by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi of Great Britain, published in 2003. In the first chapter of his Haggadah, Rabbi Sacks writes, "The weaving together of these many contributions into a single narrative is the achievement of no ordinary author. It is the collective voice of the Jewish people through centuries and continents as it has encountered and responded to the word of G-d."

Through the Haggadah more than a hundred generations of Jews have handed on their story to their children. The word "haggadah" means "to relate, to tell, to expound." But it comes from a Hebrew root that also means "to bind, to join, to connect." By reciting the Haggadah, Jews give their children a sense of connectedness to Jews throughout the world and to the Jewish people throughout time. It joins them to a past and future, a history and destiny, and makes them characters in its drama. Jews dispersed across continents, speaking different languages and participating in different cultures, have been bound together by a narrative, which they told on the same way on the same night. More than the Haggadah was the story of a people, Jews were

the people of a story.

We invite the entire community to join us Monday evening, March 29, at Temple Beth Israel when we will have the wonderful pleasure and privilege of celebrating Passover together. As we paraphrase the beautiful words from the Haggadah, "Let all come join us and eat."

Laurie and I look forward to seeing everyone this weekend. We wish everyone a wonderful week ahead, a wonderful Shabbat, and a wonderful Passover.

Shalom U'V'Racha

All The Best!

Rabbi Frank Joseph

### RECIPE FILE

#### BREAD-LIKE PASSOVER ROLLS

This recipe comes from a poster-sized sheet of recipes printed by Manishevitz many years ago. Besides making reasonably good mock "rolls," it's fun for kids to make (very sticky!).

— Janet Wilder

- 2 cups matzo meal
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 Tbsp sugar
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup peanut oil (or any Kosher for Passover oil)
- 4 eggs

■ In a bowl, combine matzo meal with salt and sugar.

■ In a medium saucepan, bring oil and water to a boil.

■ Remove the saucepan from the heat and add the matzo meal mixture, stirring well.

■ Beat in the eggs thoroughly, one at a time. Let the mixture stand for about 15 minutes (can be refrigerated).

■ With well oiled hands, shape it into oval rolls and place on a well-greased cookie sheet (you will have to keep oiling your hands).

■ Bake in a preheated oven at 375 F for 50 minutes or until golden brown

Yield: 12 rolls

## Rules for children's behavior

The board of directors recently approved the following set of rules for the behavior of children at services and onegs. We hope the congregation will accept and abide by them:

**"Firstly, Temple Beth Israel welcomes young children and encourages them to attend services and other events. We want to create and foster an environment where all are respectful to the synagogue, the service, the other congregants, and the Rabbi."**

1. Children will not go on the Bimah except as part of services or other temple business.
2. During services, children younger than six will sit with their parents. If the child needs to get up, a parent or older sibling will accompany him/her.
3. If a child is restless during services, he/she may play quietly on the terrace outside. The school building will usually be closed during services.
4. There will be no running in the temple or school building.
5. No one will touch the food at the oneg until after the blessings.
6. Children younger than 10 will be served by an adult.

Parents are responsible for monitoring the behavior of their children, but any adult should intervene if children are behaving inappropriately.

### DONATIONS

- From Alma Russek for the Building Fund, in honor of Bert Wolf's birthday
- From Dyan Banks, with thanks to Rabbi Joseph for Hebrew lessons
- From Bert Wolf, Passover Food for the Temple Seder
- From the Amy and Rollins Koppel Foundation to support the temple's new Shabbat breakfast
- From Judith Neumann of Brownsville, several new books for the library

### ONEGS



#### MARCH

\* Janet Wilder, Micheal and Veronica Freeman, and David and Elizabeth Goldstein.

\* *Oneg coordinator is responsible for organizing the group and its duties (who brings and does what, when and where).*

#### Checklist:

- Decaf coffee
- Cream & sugar
- Decaf cold drinks or juice and ice
- Cups for coffee and drinks
- Plastic ware, napkins, plates
- Kosher wine
- Small wine cups
- Unsliced challah
- Table cloth (if one is used from the Temple, please launder it and return it to the Temple as soon as possible)
- Table decoration
- Desserts for about 40-50 people (choices of cookies, cakes, nuts, fruit, coffee cakes, or flan)

### NEWS AND NOTES

*Continued from Page 2*

■ **Shabbat morning breakfast and Torah discussion** after 9 a.m. services on Saturday mornings when Rabbi Joseph is in Harlingen.

■ **Congratulations to Amy Koppel**, who will be honored by the local chapter of the American Association of University Women as their Woman of the Year at a luncheon on Saturday, Apr. 17. Anyone wishing to attend the luncheon to honor Amy, please call 490-9819 or 459-3955 for reservations.

■ Alma Russek is selling **Shabbat challah** for \$5. Contact her at 956-970-7722.

■ This year's **Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society** will be held in Harlingen on the night of April 30. Once again Adriana Gonzalez is chairing the Stars of David with the help of her mother, Abby Warshowsky. This year, the temple hopes for a really big turnout of participants. Contact Abby at 956-412-3520.