

SIM SHALOM

Our Newsletter

Nisan-Iyyar 5771

April-May 2011

TEMPLE

BETH ISRAEL

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PASSOVER

Seder

Monday, April 18
6:30 pm.

We need to give a final count to the caterer on April 14, so please have your reservation made and paid for by April 13.

Adults age 13 and over: \$30
Children age 6 to 12: \$15
Children age 5 and under: free

More details on Page 2



From the President

I am honored to be president for another year. As I said at the annual meeting, I will do my best to facilitate the good cooperation and participation that we have, and if we can get a few new members, that would be good too. Welcome to our new board members: Veronica Huff, Leon Hananel, and Joel Smith. I look forward to working together. And thank you to Steve Jones and Tom Huff who have participated for several years on board.

Thanks to all who participated in temple work day last Sunday, April 3. We got a lot done around the temple. An outdoor crew planted flowers, mulched beds, pruned, and cleaned under the shrubbery. In the sanctuary, we polished the woodwork, especially, the pew sand doors. The kitchen crew emptied and cleaned out the drawers, and

cabinets, and refrigerator. Meanwhile in the school, the classrooms were straightened up, and the rabbi's office was thoroughly dusted and cleaned. That's a lot of work. Thank you to the following families: Huff, Goldstein, Russek, Gaytan, Holzman, Newman, and Bogorad. and to Nivia Fisch, Charlene Moskal, and Amy Koppel. Now the temple is just about ready for Passover.

Speaking of which, please make your paid seder reservations by Wednesday, April 13. We will give out final numbers to the caterer on April 14, and we want to have enough food for everybody who wants to come.

Have a happy Passover,
Laurel Steinberg

CALENDAR

Friday, Apr. 15

Shabbat service, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Apr. 16

Shabbat Service 9 a.m.

Havdallah/Basic Judaism
class 6:30 p.m.**Sunday, Apr. 17**Religion School model
seder**Monday, Apr. 18**6:30 p.m. First Passover
Seder**April 19-26**

Passover

Friday, May 6

Shabbat service, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 13

Confirmation Shabbat

Sat.-Sun., May 14-15Religion School camping
trip**Sun., May 22**Last Day of Religion
School**Wed., June 1**

Yom Yerushalayim

Tues, June 7

7:30 p.m. Shavuot service

Fri.-Sat. June 10-11Benjamin Warshowsky-
Gonzalez Bar Mitzvah**Sun, June 26**

Rummage Sale

Sat. July 2

Havdalah Movie Night

Fri-Sat. July 29-30Alma Russek/
Susan Ander Bat Mitzvah**August 26/27**Bat Mitzvah of Melanie
Goldstein

NEWS AND NOTES

Our community seder is coming up soon, on Monday, April 18, 6:30 pm., with Rabbi Joseph leading. We have a new caterer and new menu. We need to give a final count to the caterer on April 14, so please have your reservation made and paid for by April 13.

For adults age 13 and over: \$30

For children age 6 to 12: \$15

For children age 5 and under: free

Please indicate if you would like chicken or fish.

Please make your check to Temple Beth Israel and mail it to me:

Laurel Steinberg, 613 W Saint Charles St, Brownsville, TX 78520

I hope to hear from you soon if you plan to attend,

— Laurel S.

In honor of Passover, please donate to the Gabbai Fund

Passover food at HEB at Lincoln St.: There are matzoh, matzoh meal, macaroon, and candy available. If you don't see it them near the Jewish section of the store, Please ask the grocery manager, as they have not been consistent about keeping these foods on display.

Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society:

Money must be turned in this week to the Relay for Life, so if anyone wishes to donate they need to do it now. We are trying to raise \$1000 as a team to get a certificate. We need support. Adriana Gonzalez is coordinator. Contact her or Abby Warshowshy at 956-412-3520; 956-536-0705 cell or gonsky@sbcglobal.net. (Please make checks to American Cancer Society)

Temple Beth Israel's Stars of David team will be running and walking, starting Friday evening, April 29, at Boggus Stadium in Harlingen. Stop by at the Stars of David booth, and run or walk a lap of two. The relay goes all night, and we will have a presence there all night. It is really fun, and it is important for our temple to participate with the whole Harlingen community for this worthy cause.

Don't throw that out! Yes it is another temple Rummage Sale, scheduled for Sunday, June 26. Please start to set aside those treasures that you no longer want or need. Later in the spring we will have space in the temple to store your items.

ONEGS

Thank you for participating in our temple onegs. Everyone's contribution is greatly appreciated. If there is a conflict with your scheduled date, please take the well-timed initiative to trade with another member. Contact Laurel Berg or Veronica Huff if you need a phone number.

APRIL 15*Elizabeth & David
GoldsteinOlgo Quintero
Robert Alvarado**MAY 13***Bert & Jamie Wolf
Jose & Liliana Cohen
David & Lori Suissa**JUNE 10***Dyan Banks
Shirley Sondock**JULY 30***Alma Russek
Myriam Herszage
Veronica & Micheal
Freeman**Checklist:**

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

Hosts are responsible for cleaning up the food and dishes before they leave.

Temple Work Day



From the Gabbai

The Future of the Jewish People:

If we believe some surveys about Jewish people in the United States, we find a connection between intermarriage and a low level of Jewish religious and community involvement. For some people, being Jewish has become just another part of them, like being a golfer, a Democrat, or a reader. It is just another one of the hats they wear everyday.

Of the grandchildren of Jews living in the U.S. today with a grandfather or grandmother who intermarried, only 4 percent are Jewish or live a Jewish life. Today, one in every two American Jews marries outside the faith.

Additionally, Jewish women are waiting to marry until they are older, and they are having fewer children. Reform Jews have about one child per family. Unless we consider every child like a treasure to be nurtured in our Jewish faith, most of the Jews in America will disappear.

To believe these numbers, we don't need to go too far away. After a quick look around our own extended families, we can agree with at least part of it.

I think the only solutions for the disappearance of the Jewish people are to educate our children and to refocus the way we, as parents, live our Jewish lives. We must show the importance to our children of the Torah and Mitzvoth in our lives, the importance of being part of the Jewish people. If we don't do this, only the Orthodox will remain.

Jewish families in U.S. struggle with how to teach our children to be open-minded, independent and inclusive, and still teach them that being Jewish is not just another option but who they are — that G-d wanted them to be born as part of the people of Israel. The only way to teach this is for them to see us try to live this way. If not, how else do we expect them not to push their Jewishness to the side until their own children come along or their non-Jewish spouses start asking questions.

The only weapon is education by example.

We need to teach our children that being Jewish is a treasure; that if we maintain a Jewish home, it is not be-

cause we are racist or not inclusive, but because the torch passed down to our parents from our grandparents and 100 generations back is now in our hands. It would be sad and not fair to them not to take the responsibility and the blessing of being part of the chosen people, or the people that choose to live as a light to the nations.

At least they should learn what it is that they are choosing not to be. Nobody throws away a closed box without looking inside, but there are plenty of Jews ready to throw away being Jewish without knowing what it is really all about.

If we have no knowledge, how can we place a value on customs, mitzvoth or traditions. If customs are nothing other than clichés, we can't understand the way they affect our lives, how they make us better people and how by repetition we exercise our character.

I think in our own little community of Temple Beth Israel, we are doing something good. We should keep asking ourselves how can we do it better, so our children grow up to be an example to later generations.

Thanks,
Fernando A. Russek



"And remember, if you need anything I'm available 24/6."

DONATIONS

Meredith A. Linsky	For the Gabbai Fund
Victor and Judy DeLeon	For the Gabbai Fund
Geoffrey & Rossan Bogorad	In Honor Alma Russek for her dedication to the Temple
Berry E. & Janet Wilder	In Honor of Amy and Rollie Koppel's safe return from Israel
Geoffrey & Rossan Bogorad	In Honor of Mrs Moskal driving Joseph Bogorad to Temple
Rollins and Amalie Koppel	To continue construction of sidewalk

Thank you!