



APRIL 2011  
Adar-II/ Nisan 5771

# B'nai Zion Voice



www.bnaizioncongregation.com

## Men's Club Kitchen Kashering



Sunday, April 10  
at 10:00 a.m.



## COMMUNITY SEDER

AT B-NAI-ZION



BZ Members: \$25.00/ea.  
Nonmembers: \$30.00/ea.  
Children (6-12): \$10.00/ea.

PLEASE RSVP

Tuesday, April 19 at 6:00 PM



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## CATHCART BABY NAMING

SHABBAT SERVICES  
APRIL 9 AT 9:45 A.M.

SAMARA MAYA  
DANIELLA BREE

PLEASE JOIN PROUD  
PARENTS, JASON AND VICKI  
AND BROTHER, JORDAN, FOR  
A KIDDUSH LUNCHEON AFTER SERVICES





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LYNN HOCHMAN, PRESIDENT

When bad things happened, I learned real quickly how wonderful my B'nai Zion family was. To all of you who have cared, prayed, sent cards, called and were there for me, THANK YOU.

More praise from me for B'nai Zion. We have had the greatest programs and greatest chairmen, and guess what, there is much more to come. I hope you will join in and see just how great a place we have.

This month we celebrate Passover. This is probably the most observed Jewish Holiday, and why not? It is a time for family, and, of course, special foods. Most of all, it is a time for us to give thanks for our freedom and survival as a Jewish people. This was a time for the rebirth of the Jewish people, gaining their freedom from tyranny and striking out on a wondrous journey that would culminate in our homeland. Yet in their jubilation and haste to leave Egypt, they did not forget their promise to Joseph, to take him with them. Yes, they remembered their departed, and this is what the Yizkor service is all about. It is a chance for us to remember and thank those who have brought us here.

While we conclude our Seder with the phrase, "Next year in Jerusalem," how about a paraphrase for us here: "Next week, services at B'nai Zion?"

*Thank you*

*We are deeply grateful for all the mazel tovs and well wishes which we have received in the past month.*

*Thank you for being there for us, through difficult times as well as times of celebration.*

*Lynn & Colman  
Hochman*

## NOTE FROM THE RITUAL COMMITTEE

### REGULARLY SCHEDULED FRIDAY NIGHT MINYAN DISCONTINUED

It is with regret that we are discontinuing the regularly scheduled Friday night minyan at 6:00 p.m. except for the nights when we have Friday night events, such as the Shabbat Mishpacha dinners. However, it has always been our policy that whenever a member requests a minyan for any evening, we will assist them in ensuring that they will have the required number.

Dr. Reuben Dubrow

## NOW ACCEPTING CANDIDATES FOR CONVERSION TO JUDAISM

Rabbi Cantor is now accepting candidates for conversion to Judaism. There will be an organizational meeting on Wednesday, April 27 at 5:00 p.m. (during Hebrew School hours) If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Jewish, please email Rabbi Cantor at [bzrabbi@comcast.net](mailto:bzrabbi@comcast.net).

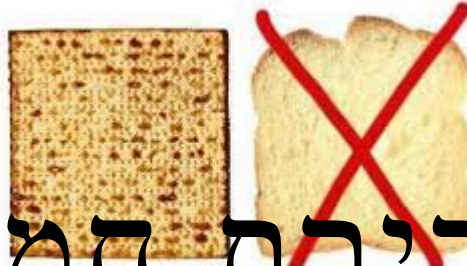


## KERMIT'S BACK!

The Pesach Frog reminds you to come to the monthly Bagels Lox and Tefillin minyan. Wrapping is encouraged, but not required.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 3 at 9:00 AM**





# מְכִירַת חֶמֶץ

## SALE OF HAMETZ

No *hametz* (leaven) may be present, or seen, in the house of a Jew during Passover. In addition to the prohibition against eating *hametz* or deriving any benefit from it, the Pentateuch explicitly states: "Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses" (Ex. 12: 19), "neither shall there be leaven seen with thee, in all thy borders" (Ex. 13:7). Any *hametz* which a Jew has kept over Passover becomes forbidden forever.

### Disposal of Hamez

The disposal of all *hametz* which is in the possession of a Jew is carried out after the *bedikat hametz* ("search for leaven") has taken place on the eve of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan. According to the *halakhah*, the *hametz* may be disposed of in three ways. It may be burnt (which must be done before 10 o'clock on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan). It may be annulled by declaring, "May all leaven in my possession, whether I have seen it or not, whether I have removed it or not, be annulled and considered as the dust of the earth." It may also be sold. Since the first method might involve hardship, especially where large quantities of foodstuffs are involved, or where the *hametz* is used for business purposes, the *hametz* is sold to a non-Jew. This applies only to foodstuffs; utensils which have been used for *hametz* need only be washed and stored separately.

### The Legal Character of the Sale

The transaction by which the *hametz* is sold must be of a legal character, carried out by means of a bill of sale. The purchaser must both lease the place in which the *hametz* is stored, and buy the *hametz* itself. The gentile thus becomes the legal owner of the *hametz* which the Jew, if he so desires, may buy back after Passover. The completion of the sale is effected by the signing of the contract and by the transfer of money, usually in the form of a down payment. The rabbinic insistence that such a bill of sale be in accordance with the requirements of the *halakhah*, and the inconvenience which would result were every Jew to attempt to sell his own *hametz* gave rise to the formal sale of the *hametz*. The Jewish vendor merely appends his signature to a composite document which grants power of attorney to sell his *hametz* to an agent (usually the local rabbi) who, in turn, arranges the contract with the non-Jewish buyer. The agent buys the *hametz* back after Passover, and restores it to its original owners. All the contracts are written in Hebrew although it has been suggested that the vernacular be used for the bill of sale so as to ensure the Gentile's understanding of the contract.

Rabinowicz, Harry. "Ḥameẓ, Sale of." *Encyclopaedia Judaica*. Ed. Michael Berenbaum and Fred Skolnik. 2nd ed. Vol. 8. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2007. p. 303.



*Note: If possible, all hametz – food not acceptable during Pesah (Passover), or materials containing such unacceptable food – should be destroyed or given away before the holiday begins. Should this be impossible, the hametz may be stored in such a way that we are sure not to use it during the holiday and its actual ownership is transferred to a non-Jew until the holiday ends.*

**Please complete the form below and return no later than Friday, April 15.**

KNOW ALL PEOPLE BY THESE PRESENTS: That I, the undersigned do hereby make and appoint Rabbi David A Cantor my true and lawful representative to act in my place and stead, for me and in my name and in my behalf, to sell all *hametz* owned and possessed by me, knowingly or unknowingly, as stated in the Torah and defined by the sages of Israel (e.g., *hametz*; *hashash hametz* – suspect *hametz*; and all kinds of *ta'aromet hametz* – *hametz* mixtures); also, *hametz* that tends to harden and to adhere to the surface of pans, pots, or other cooking or eating utensils, of whatsoever nature, and to lease all places wherein the aforementioned *hametz* owned or possessed by me may be found, especially in the premises located at

(my address) \_\_\_\_\_.

Rabbi Cantor has the full authority and power to sell said *hametz* and to lease said place or places wherein said *hametz* may be found, upon terms and conditions as discretion dictates. Rabbi Cantor has the full power and authority to assign or appoint a substitute or substitutes to act in my behalf with all the same powers and authority that I have invested in the rabbi, and I do hereby ratify and confirm all that Rabbi Cantor or a rabbinic substitute lawfully does or causes to be done by virtue of these presents.

And to this I hereby affix my signature on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of April, in the year 2011.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_





Elizabeth Monson has traveled, not the way most of us travel, as brief visitors, observing, sampling, and returning quickly to our familiar surroundings. Elizabeth has lived and worked in places as far afield as New Zealand and Israel, New Hampshire and California. She first arrived in Chattanooga as a rebbetzin, wife of the rabbi at Mizpah congregation. The South was familiar territory. Born in Alabama, Elizabeth attended boarding school at Brenau Academy in Gainesville, Georgia followed by Auburn University and Hampton University. Post graduate work took her to Loma Linda University in California. A marriage and family therapist with a life counseling certificate, Elizabeth is licensed to practice in Tennessee, California, and New Zealand.

Elizabeth first moved to Chattanooga from New Hampshire. California had been her home for many years before New Hampshire. During that time, she lived in New Zealand for a year and a half and came to dearly love the country and the community. She was the only American on staff and stays in contact with friends and co-workers. After leaving Chattanooga, Elizabeth returned to California where she was head counselor at a residential treatment center for adolescent boys who had been bumped out of every school system. The facility was in the mountains of California and served, in

many cases, as the last stop for severely troubled youth. Some were emotionally disturbed; others suffered from schizophrenia, autism, developmental disabilities or Tourette Syndrome. The economic downturn hit California early and funding cutbacks forced the facility to close.

After such intense work Elizabeth might have considered serving a less challenging community. Instead, Elizabeth returned to Chattanooga to work at the Silverdale Detention Facility run by the Corrections Corporation of America. Silverdale, where Elizabeth has worked for the past five and a half years, does not quite qualify as lighter duty. Silverdale houses one thousand people and is almost always at full capacity. Because Silverdale is a jail and not a prison, the population turns over completely at least ten times a year. That leaves little time to provide the support services inmates could use to help them get their lives back on track. Elizabeth has the opportunity to work with some individuals and groups. She also focuses on mentally disturbed and special needs inmates as well as those in hospice.

A year ago, health concerns made it imperative Elizabeth focus on her own health and she includes walking and yoga as part of her regular routine. Other activities outside of work are varied. Her counseling background has played an important role in some of her volunteer work which has included working with firefighters after a difficult fire or death on duty. She has volunteered at Ronald McDonald House and the Tennessee Aquarium. She has also been a member of Hadassah with fluctuating levels of activity. Elizabeth was a member of the B'nai Zion choir under Cantor Schwartz. She is also a master gardener.

One volunteer activity stands out. Seven years ago Elizabeth participated in a memorable volunteer experience with the Israeli Army through the Sar El Program. Sar El is a volunteer program of the Israeli Defense Force (IDF). Volunteers provide needed

support services, from tank cleaning to cooking, and help limit the need for reserve soldiers to be called up for active duty. Volunteers from around the world join together to work on projects for as little as two weeks to, as in Elizabeth's case, several months. Volunteers are responsible for their own transportation. When they arrive, the fresh recruits are taken to their barracks, given a uniform, boots, and a hat and asked to report for work. Accommodations are basic and clothes are washed by hand. The experience was powerful and life changing. Her volunteer group included teachers, nurses, doctors, holocaust survivors, the head of the New York City subway system, a hospital administrator from South Africa, and a former babysitter for Sigmund Freud's grandchildren. The volunteers have the opportunity to study Hebrew as well. The Sar El website at [www.sar-el.org](http://www.sar-el.org) provides information and application information about the program.

Elizabeth would relish the opportunity to return to Israel or New Zealand for a longer time. She savors the opportunity to contribute and to experience the wonder of new people, places, ideas, and experiences which she approaches with openness and patience, a value she learned from her father. We are delighted Elizabeth has joined B'nai Zion once again and we warmly welcome her back.

► Elizabeth Cline

## Please Welcome Our New Members



Steven Sherman

Leonard H. Green

**Shalom!**

# JEWISH EDUCATION



JASON CATHCART,  
DIRECTOR OF  
CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING

## What can you do with a dollar?

The very first project I ever completed on a computer was for Hebrew School. I was a Tenth grader preparing for Confirmation. All of the students were asked to write a paper about what we had learned during our confirmation studies. We had recently welcomed our first computer into our home, so I thought this would be a great chance to try it out. I sat at that machine and typed for hours. When I was done, I manually spell checked the entire document. Once that was finished, I printed a copy on our VERY LOUD dot matrix printer. When I took the document to the rabbi, he edited the paper and handed it back to me. He asked me to please make the changes. I sulked all the way home and throughout the time I re-worked the paper. When everything was complete, I proclaimed that I would never again use a computer to type a paper.

The technology we have in our lives today is staggering: laptops, iPods, smartphones, tablets. The challenge with these items is that they all cost money. As a school, money is always the biggest hurdle to overcome when we think about bringing technology into the classroom. For years, I have been trying to find a way for our school to be on the cutting edge of technology.

In February, the Beit Sefer Ivri was fortunate to propose a grant that would allow us to increase our school's technology. We are so pleased that the Lebovitz Family Charitable Trust approved our grant. These monies will be used to purchase laptops, digital cameras, a projector, Jewish learning software and install a wireless network in our school wing.



These technologies will give our students new opportunities they've never experienced in the Jewish community:

- Cloud computing will allow our students to work on projects with students from other time zones (including Israel).
- Scholars from all Jewish disciplines could be present via online video conferencing. Whether learning about Jewish law, social justice or rituals experts could 'drop in' on a class for just a few minutes to provide insights and answer questions.
- Digital projects can be easily shared with parents, teachers in other grades and administrators at other schools.
- Teacher collaboration can lead to innovation in the classroom. Sharing of lesson plans, classroom successes, and emerging technologies will place our teachers in elite company.

Without the generosity of the Lebovitz Family Charitable Trust, none of this would be possible. We owe them a thank you for their vision and investment in our Jewish future.

I look forward to sharing projects with the entire congregation as our students and teachers learn to take advantage of the technology.

Kol Tuv (Be well),

Jason

FOR 3RD TO  
6TH GRADE

## BSI Junior Congregation



Celebrate Shabbat in  
your own Service!

Torah plays, games, hands-on learning, study  
and more!

NEXT AMAZING SERVICES  
WILL BE HELD...

**April 2 and 16**  
**10am-12pm**  
**BZ Ed Wing**

For more information on any Youth or Education program,  
please contact Jason Cathcart at 423-894-8900 x103  
or email [BZedyouth@comcast.net](mailto:BZedyouth@comcast.net).

**Our Mishloach Manot fundraiser was a great success! Thanks to all the families that contributed.**



A special thank you to World Sales and Jerry and Judy Kelinstub for their donation to our bags. 😊

**USY Regional Convention**  
 April 29-May 1 in Orlando, FL  
 What a great weekend of friends, fun and amazing experiences!

For details, including costs and applications, please contact Jason at: 894.8900 or [bzedyouth@comcast.net](mailto:bzedyouth@comcast.net)

April BSI at a Glance	
4/2	Jr. Congregation
4/6	Gan, Chaverim, Chalutzim, Kochavim, Bagrut & Confirmation
4/13	Chaverim, Chalutzim & Kochavim
4/16	Jr. Congregation
4/27	Gan, Chaverim, Chalutzim, Kochavim, Bagrut & Confirmation

**Hebrew Word of the month:**

Playground

**מִגְרָשׁ מִשְׁחָקִים**  
 (migrash mischakim)

# CONTRIBUTIONS TO B'NAI ZION

## SPECIAL FUNDS

- [B] Babysitting
- [CE] Louis & Rose Chawkin Education Fund
- [Ed] Education
- [E] Enhancement
- [H] Hanan Family Scholarship
- [K] Kiddush
- [KE] Kitchen Equipment
- [L] Library
- [R] Rabbi's Discretionary
- [ST] Senior Transportation

## IN MEMORY

### In Memory of Joyce Bonder

Jan & Michael Hanan (H)

### In Memory of Justine Jacobs

Amelia & Owen Allen (KE)

Claire Binder (KE)

Jackie & Roy Rosenfeld (Ed)

Pris & Robert Siskin

### In Memory of Miriam Wise

Amelia & Owen Allen (KE)

### In Memory of Virginia Raider

Amelia & Owen Allen (KE)

Karen, Michael & Joseph Saul

### In Memory of Harry Mannheimer

Yetta & Howard Gropper

### In Memory of Keith Bauman

Yetta & Howard Gropper

## MAZEL TOV

### Rabbi & Kedma Cantor

#### In Honor of Yoash's Bar Mitzvah

Alan & Alison Lebovitz (R)

### Valerie Chill

#### In Honor of Your Birthday

Amelia & Owen Allen (KE)

### Dr. Reuben & Dot Dubrow

#### In Honor of Your Granddaughter's

#### Bat Mitzvah

Colman & Lynn Hochman

Miriam Richelson

### Issi Goldberg

#### In Honor of Being Named

#### Volunteer of the Year

Anne, Pennie, Myra & Alan Richelson

### Lynn & Colman Hochman

#### In Honor of your 50th Anniversary

Dr. Bruce & Merle Backer

Dr. Sam & Dana Banks (KE)

Ida, Marla & Aaron Bell

Claire Binder (KE)

Dr. Stuart & Fillis Frank

Marc Gault & Ida Gault

Yetta & Howard Gropper

Judy & Jerry Kleinstub

Millie & Gary Lander

Barbara Paper

Merv & Helen Pregulman

JoAnn & Maish Richelson

Phyllis Schwarz, Rick & Lon Jacobs

Alvin & Clara Shoenig

Gitta Stein

Sylvia Wygoda & Lois Wygoda Klezmer

### Barry & Flossie Parker

#### In Honor of Your Wedding

Amelia & Owen Allen (KE)

Jan & Michael Hanan (H)

Jordan & Rebecca Parker

Paul & Alena Stahl

Joyce Thomas

### Flossie Weill Parker

#### In Honor of Your Birthday

Jan & Michael Hanan (H)

### Jordan & Rebecca Parker

#### In Honor of Lilah's Baby Naming

Yetta & Howard Gropper

Lynn & Colman Hochman

Lenét Solomon Parker

Helen & Merv Pregulman

Miriam Richelson

Phyllis Schwarz & Rick & Lon Jacobs

### Sanford Winer

#### In Honor of Your Birthday

Len & Val Chill

Shelton Goldbatt & Family

Esther & Julius Greenwald

Yetta & Howard Gropper

Jan & Michael Hanan (H)

Dr. Alan & Charlotte Jacobson

Judy & Jerry Kleinstub

Millie & Gary Lander

Susan & David Leininger

Barbara Oxenhandler

Miriam Richelson

Jackie & Roy Rosenfeld (Ed)

Phyllis Schwarz, Rick & Lon Jacobs

Yuppie & Harold Shavin

Gayle Shavin, Sam & Stefani Johnson (Ed)

Dr. Jim & Fern Shire

Simms Family (K)

Pris & Robert Siskin

Norman & Sylvia Slovis

Gitta Stein

Barbara & Jay Wiston

### Merv Pregulman

Amelia & Owen Allen (KE)

Dr. Bruce & Merle Backer

Dr. Reuben & Dot Dubrow

Yetta & Howard Gropper

Jan & Michael Hanan (H)

Lynn & Colman Hochman

Lawrence & Anita Levine

Marcia & Jay Menuskin (H)

Jackie & Roy Rosenfeld (Ed)

Sanford & Elaine Winer

## SPEEDY RECOVERY

### Lynn Hochman

Amelia & Owen Allen (KE)

Dr. Stanley & Gail Dressler

Isidore Frumin

Jan & Michael Hanan (H)

Peggy & Norman Hofferman

Dr. Alan & Charlotte Jacobson

Millie & Gary Lander

Lawrence & Anita Levine

Miriam Richelson

Jackie & Roy Rosenfeld (Ed)

Harold & Yuppie Shavin

Ned & Felicia Sturzer (L)

Joyce Thomas

Ruth, Lester & Alex Votava

Sanford & Elaine Winer

Barbara & Jay Wiston

Sylvia Wygoda & Lois Wygoda Klezmer

### Marcia Menuskin

Amelia & Owen Allen (KE)

Dr. Bruce & Merle Backer

Claire Binder (KE)

Barbara & Jerry Bohn

Dr. Stanley & Gail Dressler

## ETZ HAYIM/SIDDUR

### In Honor of Pennie Pearlman

Wendy & Nathan Pearlman

### In Honor of our 50th Anniversary

Lynn & Colman Hochman

### In Memory of Sadye Pearlman

Wendy & Nathan Pearlman

### In Memory of David Richelson

Wendy & Nathan Pearlman

Miriam Richelson

## IN APPRECIATION

### Arvin Reingold

Paul Lefkoff

## SUPER BOWL WINNINGS

Special thanks to Claire Binder for donating her Super Bowl winnings to the Enhancement and Kitchen Equipment funds.

## Brotherhood/Sisterhood Shabbat Report ~ Amelia and Owen Allen, Chairs

The Brotherhood and Sisterhood Shabbat was held on Friday night, February 25, at 6 P.M. It was a beautiful service led by Rabbi David Cantor and enhanced by Cantorial Soloists Joseph and Lynn Goldovitz. It was truly a Kabbalat Shabbat.

Thank you to our 30 Sponsors which allowed us to invite 8 congregations and serve dinner to approximately 260 people:

The Balsler Family, Andy & Monique Berke, Claire Binder, Jerry & Barbara Bohn, Gene & Amy Boulware, Bob & Rita Brook, Irv Ginsburg, Shelton Goldblatt, Michael & Jan Hanan, Colman & Lynn Hochman, Scott & Laura Israel, Dr. Alan and Charlotte Jacobson, Al & Paula Jarman, Alan & Alison Lebovitz, Charles & Betty Lebovitz, Michael & Lauren Lebovitz, Jay & Marcia Menuskin, Merv & Helen Pregulman, Dr. Clayton & Janice Rhodes, Roy & Jackie Rosenfeld, Dr. Barry & Sande Schulman, Howard Schwartz, Dr. Jim & Fern Shire, Robert & Pris Siskin, Charles & Carla Smith, Robert & Amy Snetman, Joel & Gail Susman, Lester & Ruth Votava, Harvey Weiss, Sanford & Elaine Winer.

A special thank you to Paula and Al Jarman, Joel Susman for their hospitality and help with the Goldovitzes; the office staff, Mable and her staff. It was a wonderful evening breaking bread and sharing a delicious Shabbat meal with our friends and neighbors. ■

## YAHARZEIT CONTRIBUTIONS

### Bessie Baras

Sam Baras

### Samson Berman

Martha Berman

### Bessie Coltan

Bob & Doris Streiter

### Frances Daneman Ginsberg

Sylvia Saloshin

### Sara Polsky

Debra Polsky

### David Richelson

JoAnn & Maish Richelson (K)

### Annie Saxe

Val & Leonard Chill

### Bernard Shavin

Ellen & Manny Doyne

### Dianna Stein

Sharon Plainstein

### Wolf Witt

Claire Binder

### Phil Zinaman

Goldie Zinaman (R) ■

# מזל טוב!

## Birthdays

4/2	Jason Cathcart
4/2	Fern Shire
4/3	Julius Greenwald
4/4	Maurice Richelson
4/6	JoAnn Richelson
4/6	Adelia Wyner
4/7	Allison Rhodes
4/11	Blake Snetman
4/14	Sam Johnson
4/14	Micaela Simms
4/15	Courtney Stowe
4/19	Norman Hofferaman
4/19	Freda Wender
4/20	Jake Balsler
4/20	Dr. Michael Bondar
4/20	Dr. Jim Shire
4/21	Joanna Brown
4/21	William Jarman
4/22	Helen Brody
4/23	Dr. Harold Goldberg
4/23	Katie Schwartz
4/23	Dorothy Trotz
4/25	Samantha Lowy
4/26	Peggy Hofferaman
4/27	Jackie Rosenfeld
4/28	Rhea Schulman
4/30	Rebecca Brown ■

## Anniversaries

4/4	Maurice and JoAnn Richelson
4/10	Dr. Reuben and Dorothy Dubrow
4/16	Mervin and Helen Pregulman
4/20	David and Sherin Gottlieb
4/24	Robert and Rita Brook ■

Mazel tov to Barbara Oxenhandler on the February 26th Bat Mitzvah of her great-niece, Elyssa Beilenson, tutored by Rabbi Joe Davidson at Congregation B'nai Amoona in St. Louis, MO. Pictured are Rabbi and Barbara Davidson with Barbara Oxenhandler. Inset: Elyssa Beilenson.



# Thank you

Thank you to all who visited, called, and sent cards and well wishes!

Marcia Menuskin

# FROM THE RABBI

## RABBI DAVID CANTOR



We are living in interesting times. Uprising in the Arab world, Wisconsin senators hiding in Illinois, there are so many fascinating ideas and concepts to discuss, possibilities and consequences to ponder: Will the nonviolent process of protest lead to lasting change in Egypt? Should the world simply stand by while watching the violence in Libya? How will it affect Israel, Iran, and even China? Which is more important, pragmatics or politics?

As a student in high school, I remember debating the issues of the day: Baby Doc Duvalier and the Tonton Macoutes. Israel in Lebanon. Perestroika and Mutually Assured Destruction. The Fall of the Berlin Wall and Reaganomics.

One of the great privileges of being a rabbi is that I get to participate in the education of our youth and teens. With protesters encamped in Tahrir Square and the Wisconsin Capitol, I savored the opportunity to bring a Jewish dimension to a discussion of democracy in action. I told a Talmudic story and asked how it related to the “big issues” of the week and day. And waited. And prompted. And got a response: the Budget? Arab protests?

I couldn't help but ask the question: “This is possibly the most exciting political event of your lifetime, equivalent to the fall of Communism when I was your age. Social Studies, History, you're talking about it in your classes, right?” But I knew the answer: if it isn't on the test, it's not in the classroom. There is no time in the metrics of student assessment for any deviation from the curriculum.

Whatever happened to curiosity? I was asked to come into one of the Hebrew School classes because the students had questions about what was going on in Egypt. On a random “peek in” I was called upon to explain the concept of a no-fly zone. But this was from the younger children, who are still asking questions.

As Jews, we look to the Passover Seder and the Haggadah as a model for intellectual engagement: Four questions. Four sons with questions of their own. Come and learn what Laban wanted to do to Jacob. Whoever has not explained these three things (Pesah, Matzah, Marror) has not fulfilled the obligation of remembering the exodus from Egypt. We are told, again and again, of the value of asking questions. At the start of the Seder the whole room looks to the youngest present to exercise curiosity.

So why is it that the younger students are asking me about Egypt and Libya, while my upper school students need to be prodded?

As we grow older, we are conditioned to ask fewer questions. In a lecture, who has the courage to put up their hand and ask the instructor for the meaning of a word crucial to the understanding of the concept being taught? Does anyone in line at the car rental have patience for the person who wants to know the effect of all the provisions written in fine print before signing the contract? Do we – as a rule – stop to consider the issue from the other person's point of view before evaluating their position and formulating our response?

We can even see this at play in the Seder service. The questions are rehearsed ahead of time, and the answers are recited from the text, unchanging from year to year.

*An Aramean attempted to destroy my father, but he went down to Egypt and sojourned there, small in number. There he became a great, mighty and numerous nation.*

Question: what is meant by “but he went down to Egypt?”

Answer: reluctantly, compelled by the Divine decree.

Question: what is meant by “and sojourned there?”

Answer: he did not go down in order to settle there, but only to sojourn there.

The Haggadah supplies both the questions and the answers and we are conditioned to continue on, to not stop the Seder. Who has the courage (in light of the time budgeted until the meal is to be served) to ask new questions or formulate alternative answers? What is this Divine decree? If it was preordained, was Pharaoh merely a tool in God's plan, and therefore relieved of personal responsibility for playing the role he was assigned? If God loves Abraham, why does the plan for his descendants involve slavery and hardship? We know what the word “sojourn” means, so why does the text bother to define the word? Why is a scriptural proof brought to prove that there was no intention to settle in Egypt, but the source of the Divine decree (Genesis 15:13) isn't quoted? What is the value of this exercise in exegeses, that we make it the centerpiece of the conversation?

I have often said that one of the secrets to the Jews' success is that we encourage curiosity and questions. At the same time I remember the stories of how earlier generations (at least from the old country of my ancestors) were turned off from Judaism by repeatedly being told not to question Jewish practice or belief.

We are living in interesting times. On the one hand, we are cleaving more and more to the scripts supplied for us by society according to political affiliation and special interest. On the other hand, the needs of the hour and the depth of the challenges are compelling us to question the status quo and be open to other ways of getting things done.

Sitting down to our Seders with our friends, family, neighbors and teenagers, may we use this as an opportunity to ask the questions that really matter, and a reminder that while this night may be different from all other nights in certain special ways, every night (and day) is interesting, and we should be encouraged—just as we encourage the youngest present—to ask questions when we are curious, even when it isn't on the curriculum, even when everyone else seems to be happy with the answer. ■

# YAHREZEIT LIST

## ADAR-II/APR

26 1 Israel Joseph Kaplan\*  
 27 2 Adolph Rudoff\*  
 28 3 Mary Franklin Brown  
 28 3 Abe B. Cohen\*  
 29 4 Fela Green  
 29 4 Morris Pustelnick\*

## NISSAN/APR

1 5 Nellie Benkovitz\*  
 1 5 Louis Bogo\*  
 1 5 Khaya Basha Epstein\*  
 1 5 Louis Koblentz\*  
 1 5 Hannah Rebecca Schlomowitz\*  
 1 5 Annie Soloff\*  
 2 6 Philip I. Hite\*  
 2 6 Mamie Slabosky\*  
 3 7 Bernard Ross  
 3 7 Hyman Shavin\*  
 3 7 Leah Stone Tenenbaum\*  
 3 7 Rose Toser  
 4 8 Harry Berke\*  
 4 8 Michael Brouner\*  
 4 8 Samuel Goldberg\*  
 4 8 Isadore Oscar Wender  
 4 8 Morris (Moishe) Wolovnick\*  
 5 9 Pearl Collins  
 5 9 Abraham Goldberg  
 5 9 Rachel Hoffman\*  
 5 9 Annie Winer Mendelsohn\*  
 5 9 Ceil Ethel Miller\*  
 5 9 Rosa S. Slabosky\*  
 6 10 Morris Abelson\*  
 6 10 Flora P. Goldsmith\*  
 6 10 Adolph Simon Ochs\*  
 6 10 Hyman Steinman\*  
 7 11 Harry Winer\*  
 8 12 Irene Wender Alper\*  
 8 12 Sophie Friedman\*  
 8 12 Abraham Louis Frizler\*  
 8 12 Miriam Morris  
 8 12 Hymie Pressman\*  
 8 12 Aaron Sayers  
 9 13 Libbie Bunimowitz\*  
 9 13 Fannie Dubrow\*  
 9 13 Abe Eisen  
 9 13 Goldie Kellman  
 9 13 William Sher  
 10 14 Barnet Milgrom\*  
 11 15 Haskell Selman Friedman\*  
 11 15 Harry Hite\*  
 11 15 Rose Kolodkin  
 11 15 Abraham Levy  
 11 15 Fanny Reingold\*  
 11 15 Abe Shugerman\*  
 11 15 Rose Milgrom Weintraub\*  
 12 16 Ida K. Deitch  
 12 16 Irving Rosenbaum  
 13 17 Sam Brody

13 17 Jack (Jacob) Fanburg\*  
 13 17 Morris Gordon\*  
 13 17 Aaron Rubin  
 14 18 Hymie Deitch\*  
 14 18 Simon Polsky  
 15 19 Abe Edelstein\*  
 16 20 Hannah Ross Bostick\*  
 16 20 Saul Menuskin\*  
 16 20 Jessie Shuman  
 17 21 Herb Cole  
 17 21 Ben Katchen\*  
 17 21 Molly (Hannah) Kopkin\*  
 17 21 Eva P. Shavin\*  
 19 23 Rose T. Balk\*  
 19 23 Esther Bornstein\*  
 19 23 Harry Cloogman\*  
 19 23 Bessie Silverman\*  
 20 24 Carrie Borisky\*  
 20 24 Morris Feldman\*  
 20 24 Anne F. Garry  
 21 25 Max Alper\*  
 21 25 Harry Daneman  
 21 25 Israel A. Morris\*  
 21 25 Samuel Sazer  
 21 25 Emilia Winer\*  
 22 26 Rebecca Wender Apler\*  
 22 26 Flora El-Kodsi  
 22 26 Herman Manis  
 23 27 Ida Brandman\*  
 23 27 Esther Dressler\*  
 24 28 Pauline Okrent\*  
 24 28 Nona Dubrof Sayers\*  
 24 28 Morris Slutsky\*  
 25 29 Samuel Chawkin\*  
 25 29 Dr. Oscar B. Hecklin\*  
 25 29 Anna D. Magrill\*  
 25 29 Abe Siskin\*  
 25 29 Joan Lenet Solomon\*  
 25 29 Joseph Toser  
 26 30 Isaac Goldstein  
 26 30 Helen Small  
 26 30 Abraham J. Trotz ■

\*Memorialized on our memorial plaques.

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April 2011			
Sat	2	10:00 am	Jr. Congregation
Sun	3	9:00 am	BLT
Mon	4	7:30pm	Intro to Judaism
Tues	5	6:00 pm	Minyan
Tues	4	6:30pm	Teach Yourself to Read Hebrew
Tues	4	7:15 pm	Prayerbook Hebrew the Easy Way
Wed	6	4:30 pm	BSI-All classes
Sat	9	9:45am	Cathcart Baby Naming
Sun	10	10:00 pm	Men's Club Kasher Kitchen
Wed	13	4:30 pm	BSI-Chaverim, Chalutzim, Kochavim
Sat	16	10:00 am	Jr. Congregation
Mon	18	--	First Seder
Tues	19	9:45 am	Pesach Morning Services
Tues	19	6:00 pm	Pre-Seder Minyan
Tues	19	6:15 pm	BZ Community Seder OFFICE CLOSED - Pesach
Wed	20	9:45 am	Pesach Morning Services
Wed	20	--	OFFICE CLOSED - Pesach
Mon	25	9:45 am	Pesach Morning Services
Mon	25	--	OFFICE CLOSED - Pesach
Tues	26	9:45 am	Pesach Morning Services
Tues	26	11:00 am	Yizkor
Tue	26	6:00 pm	OFFICE CLOSED - Pesach/Yizkor/Minyan
Wed	27	4:30 pm	BSI-All classes
Wed	27	5:00 p.m.	Conversion class organizational mtg.

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**Editorial Staff / Committee:**  
 Deborah Wint, Amelia Allen, Rabbi David Cantor, Elizabeth Cline, Lester Votava, Jackie Rosenfeld, Joyce Thomas. ■

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE  
OF SERVICES**

Shabbat Services: Sat. 9:45 a.m.  
Weekday Minyan: Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

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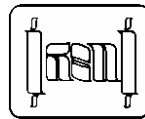
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**B'nai Zion  
Congregation**

(423) 894-8900  
Fax: (423) 894-8902  
e-mail: [bnaizion@comcast.net](mailto:bnaizion@comcast.net)



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