

B'er Chayim Bulletin

March 2010
Adar 1 - Nisan 5770

107 Union Street
Cumberland, Md. 21502
301-722-5688

www.berchayim.org



Asking Current Questions at Passover

Mah nishtanah ha-lailah ha-zeh mi-kol ha-lailot?
Why is this night different from all other nights?

We know the traditional answers to this question: On this night, we eat matzah and bitter herbs, we dip and we recline. But this is not all, or even most, of what Passover is about. On most other nights, we allow the news of tragedy in distant places to pass us by. We succumb to compassion fatigue – aware that we cannot possibly respond to every injustice that arises around the world. On this night, we are reminded that our legacy as the descendants of slaves creates in us a different kind of responsibility – we are to protect the stranger because we were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Let us add a fifth question to this year's seder. Let us ask ourselves, Aych nishaneh et ha-shanah ha-zot mi-kol ha-shanim? How can we make this year different from all other years?

This year, this Passover, let us recommit to that sacred responsibility to protect the stranger, particularly those vulnerable strangers whose suffering is so often ignored. Let us infuse the rituals of the seder with action:

When tasting the matzah, the bread of poverty, let us find ways to help the poor and the hungry.

When eating the maror, let us commit to help those whose lives are embittered by disease.

When dipping to commemorate the blood that protected our ancestors against the Angel of Death, let us pursue protection for those whose lives are threatened by violence and conflict.

When reclining in celebration of our freedom, let us seek opportunities to help those who are oppressed.

excerpted from American Jewish World Service

Irma's Input

My column this month will be devoted solely to my dear friend, Jane Schwab, with whom I shared a special bond for the past 57 years. The magnificent obituary, which appeared in the paper Friday, February 5, described this remarkable woman extremely well, but I still felt the necessity of adding a few personal words.

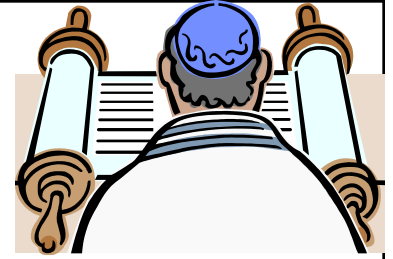


Of course, Jane Schwab was a perfectly beautiful woman. Even with the advancing years, she remained attractive and well-groomed. And, oh, those eyes! Deep, powerful, dark eyes. The best compliment ever paid me was at the Martin's dress shop in downtown Cumberland about 50 years ago. One of the sales clerks mistakenly called me, "Mrs. Schwab." I was so flattered that it was actually hard for me to tell her I am Irma Dezen. The clerk responded, "You and Jane Schwab remind me so much of each other." In personality and theatricality, I suppose. At any rate, I shall treasure that remark for all my life.

Jane was my first friend when Bob and I became engaged in 1953. My mother-in-law, the unforgettable Rose Dezen, had hosted a tea to introduce me to the ladies of the town. How well I remember meeting Beshie, Jean Schwartz, Lois Schwab, Ida Lutz, Jean Ossip, Ruth Hirsch, Faye Hersch, Greta Granet, Helen Kauffman, Evelyn Kauffman, and Jane, among others. Jane and I "took" to each other at once and she and Len attended our wedding in Pittsburgh on August 16 and took pictures. (I still get a chuckle looking at them.) I was actually married in a pink dress, not traditional in those days. Young and innocent Irma was quite naive about the custom of wearing white for the first marriage. Sweet, kind Jane never questioned just how innocent I really was. She was tactful, always.

Jane and I lived near each other for a few
cont. p. 3

From the Rabbi



When we say it is time to get ready for Passover, we usually start thinking about ordering food and planning a Seder. I want to pause for a moment to focus on what we are in fact celebrating and commemorating, namely God's liberation of the people of Israel from Egyptian bondage.

In the book of Exodus we read that God says, "I have now heard the moaning of the Israelites because the Egyptians are holding them in bondage, and I have remembered my covenant." Then God says to the people that he will free them and says, "I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession." Servitude is bad, but there is something else wrong with the people of Israel being slaves in Egypt. They are supposed to be somewhere else. According to the Torah, God makes a covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and, as part of that covenant, assigns a certain land to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. When our ancestors were freed from slavery and left Egypt, they had a purpose and a destination. The expression "Let my people go" doesn't end there. The full expression is, "Let my people go that they may serve me." The purpose was to serve God. The destination was the land of Canaan with a stop at Sinai to receive Torah.

I must admit what I have just said is a very Jewish understanding of the Exodus, all of which is in the book of Exodus, which is a very Jewish book. Let me now share a more secular approach.

We Jews have often said that no one is really free as long as there are people enslaved. We are not alone in finding a universal message in the Exodus story. The Western world, the Western Christian world and the Western secular world, were inspired by the story to rebel against oppression, to rebel against the notion that slaves have to accept their lot. Last month I received an email inviting me to receive some study materials on this topic that were based on Michael Walzer's book EXODUS AND REVOLUTION. As I shared with some of you, I read the book (twenty five years ago) and decided to re-read it and not rely on someone else's study materials. On March 12, I intend to talk on this topic: how the story of our liberation from slavery inspired a revolutionary tradition in the Western world.

Rabbi Stephen L. Sniderman

Donations

Hadassah - JNF Party

Yahrzeits

Donor

Irene G. Tabackman

Irma Dezen
The Kageys

Harold Yankelevitz
Louise Mirkin

Marilyn Brock

In memory of

Sidney Craig
Goodman
Dr. Harry Kalet
Ann Susan Anderson
Charles A. Togut
Rebecca Marx
Abraham Jonathan
Mirkin
Louis Cator

The Hadassah-JNF card party was re-scheduled to 12 noon, Sunday, February 28 at the Holiday Inn. People will be able to order off the menu. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Irma at 301-777-1960 or Beshie at 301-729-2773. Members who are unable to attend are asked to send checks to Hadassah treasurer, Katy Pallik, 11 Helman Drive, LaVale, Md. 21502 or drop a contribution off at the Book Center. Gayle, as always, is the official counter for money received.



***We mourn the recent passing of
Miriam Schindler
Jane Schwab***

Donations

In Memory of Jane Schwab

Irma Dezen
Lazarus-Haag Family - Judi, Harry, Aaron & Adam
Curtis & Nancy Friedenberg
Dave & Deb Litman
Lee Schwartz & Gayle Griffith
Debbie & Chuck Lang
Marlene & Seymour Sallerson
Bob & Elena Manasse
Debra Schaaf
Betsy Woolfson
Mary Glenn
Mary Beth Pirolozzi
Eleanor Albright
Seymour R. and Laura Scher
Carol Efron
Jamie & Jo Sloan
Ed & Mary Mattingly family
Sam & Nadine Miller
Tom & Kittie Dunn
Brenda & Clarke Castelle
Pat Hilton & Frank Fotia
Catherine Gira
Bernie & Beth Johl
Stephanie and Philip Mandelbaum
John J and Renee R. Rothschild
Janet and Paul Kramer
Rita & Homer Lowenberg
Skidmore, Alderson and Duncan, PA
Carol A. Kirchner

In Memory of Richard Schwab

Debra Schaaf
Lee Schwartz & Gayle Griffith
Bob & Elena Manasse
Pat Hilton and Frank Fotia
Ann & Mike Ehlers
Skidmore, Alderson and Duncan, PA
Andrew Hart

Leaf on the Tree

Valerie and Jack Arch
Jason, Eli, Avi Schwab, Laura Staley, Rachel & Michael Schulites

To the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Tadd & Sandy Schwab

Irma's Input (cont)

years, she on Greene St. and I on Allegany St., before we moved into our respective homes on LeFevre Rd. and LaVale Blvd. We used to meet for lunch in those days, and on those luncheon dates we found our tastes, interests and opinions quite compatible. Jane was serene, agreeable and incapable of provoking an argument.

Our two-way luncheons expanded in later years to a foursome. Helena Sauer and Sondra Schindler joined our group and we amusingly called ourselves the "Fab Four" (no offense to the Beatles). Helena brilliant, Sondra intuitive and Irma goofy. We were perfect foils for each other. What lively conversations we had!

Jane was (like Beshie) one of the most thoughtful women who ever lived. Jane's cards, messages, phone calls, quotations on special occasion notes she wrote personally, were in a class by themselves. She never missed an occasion, be it birthday, anniversary, thank you, congratulations, accident or illness. Indeed, that was Jane.

She truly lived her life to the fullest. She did it all with style and class, smiling that lovely smile always. It was there even when I visited her and Len in those terrible days before she died. And to think she was also an expert sharpshooter! Who knew? Who would have thought that this too was another facet of her incredible talents?

Jane Schwab will be missed forever; but wherever she is, whatever she does in that unknown "other life", it is certain, as the poet says, "She walks in beauty."

Irma

Thank You

The family of Jane Schwab would like to thank the congregation for the outpouring of support and assistance shown during the months of Jane's illness and at the time of her death. We are truly one big family and we thank all of you.

Leonard, Doug, Betsey, Tadd, and Sandy



March 2010

Monday, March 1	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
Friday, March 5	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service Oneg - Betsey Hurwitz-Schwab
Sunday, March 7	10:30 am	Religious School
Monday, March 8	7:00 pm	Adult Hebrew
Wednesday, March 10	12 noon 6:30 pm	Daytime Mahjong - Holiday Inn Evening Mahjong - Temple
Friday, March 12	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service Oneg - Betsy Woolfson
Saturday, March 13	10:00 am	Torah Study
Sunday, March 14	10:30 am	Religious School
Monday, March 15	7:00 pm	Adult Hebrew
Friday, March 19	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service Oneg - Schaaf Family
Sunday, March 21	10:30 am	Religious School
Monday, March 22	7:00 pm	Adult Hebrew
Friday, March 26	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service Oneg - Griffith-Schwartz Family
Saturday, March 27	10:00 am	Torah Study
Sunday, March 28	10:30 am	Religious School
Monday, March 29		Erev Pesach - FIRST SEDER
Tuesday, March 30	6:00 pm	CONGREGATIONAL SEDER





B'ER CHAYIM TEMPLE SECOND NIGHT COMMUNITY SEDER

TUESDAY MARCH 30, 2010

SEDER SERVICE TO BEGIN AT 6:00 PM

TRADITIONAL FOUR COURSE MEAL
YOUR CHOICE OF ENTRÉE:
CHICKEN IN WINE SAUCE OR
SALMON IN LEMON/CAPER SAUCE

\$25.00 PER ADULT
CHILDREN - 11 AND UP - \$5.00
CHILDREN - AGES 10 AND UNDER - FREE

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

SEND YOUR CHECK (PAYABLE TO B'ER CHAYIM TEMPLE)
BY MARCH 19TH TO CORINNE SNIDERMAN
401 LEFEVRE ROAD CUMBERLAND, MD 21502
301-759-4454 YOUR CHECK IS YOUR RESERVATION



... We Remember

Yahrzeits for week ending March 5, 2010/19 Adar 1

Charles A. Togut
Dorothy Feldstein
Rebecca Kaplon
William E. Lehman
Esther Marx
Dorothy B. Hurwitz
Albert Moses Lichtenstein
Harry E. Mendelsohn
Jacob Schmitt
Dina Abrams
Samuel Hamburger
Warren Everard McConnell
Frumma Duk
George Silverman
Louis Cator
Joseph H. Gerson
Elias Klawan
Nettie Mendelsohn
Ida Friedland
Max Gottlieb

Yahrzeits for week ending March 12, 2010/26 Adar 1

Minnie Hohouser
Marvin J. Kaplon
Dorothy Edna Olin
Regina Schindler
Maurice Friedland
Etta Klein
Hattie Lippel
Florence Yankelevitz
Abraham Miller
Joseph M. Miller
Kenneth Rubenstein
Lena Kauffman
Jean Mazzucca

Yahrzeits for week ending March 19, 2010/4 Nisan

Nathan H. Brodell
Oscar Irvin
Elkano Mayer Gerson
Nathanial S. Guggenheimer
Beatrice Weiss
Herman Joseph Miller

Yahrzeits for week ending March 19, 2010/4 Nisan (cont)

Reva Zelda Rubinovitz
Rose Richman Gurenson
Henry M. Weisman
Gittle Yolles Fliefel
Louis Schwartz
Samuel Granet
Simon Kochman
Shuliang Li
Libby Milberg
Meyer Greenbaum

Yahrzeits for week ending March 26, 2010/11 Nisan

Rose R. Luddeke
Esther B. Rosenbaum
Nathan Boorda
Samuel Fliegelman
Harriet Granet
Irvin L. Morton
Louis Fichter
Constance Grolman
Dr. Blane Schindler
Henri Schwab
Stacia Miller
Ethyl B. Dantzig
Leo Isaacs
Esther Platt Klawan
Timothy C. Peach, Jr.
Toby M. Kaplon
Walter Schmitt

Yahrzeits for week ending April 2, 2010/18 Nisan

Maxine Rosenbaum
Nathan Dantzig
Clara Hersch
Rabbi Edwin Schoffman
Samuel Dantzig
Sara Gottlieb
Abraham Arch
Sol Glicksman
Lawrence I. Marks
Stella Wertheimer
Barnett Beneman
Barney Mandell
Karl M. Rosenbaum
Rae Schindler



Directory: Whom To Call

Rabbi Stephen Sniderman
B'er Chayim Temple Home
107 Union Street 401 LeFevre Road
301-722-5688 301-759-4454
slshome@aol.com

President Betsy Woolfson
301-724-6663
wolflady@atlanticbb.net

First Vice President Debby Schaaf
301-697-4808
debraschaaf@gmail.com

Second VP Deb Litman
301-729-2784
dlitman814@atlanticbb.net

Corresponding Secretary Natalie Rosten
301-722-1411
dinglemom2005@aol.com

Recording Secretary Betsey Hurwitz-Schwab
301-759-9385
bhs@9northcentre.com

Financial Secretary (Dues) Doug Schwab
301-759-9385
doug@dougschwab.net

Treasurer Gayle Griffith
301-777-8598 (h)
301-722-8345 (w)
bkcenter@pennswoods.net

Membership Open

Plaques/Tree of Life Gayle Griffith
301-777-8598 (h)
301-722-8345 (w)
bkcenter@pennswoods.net

Religious School Deb Litman
301-729-2784
dlitman814@atlanticbb.net

Bulletin Betsey Hurwitz-Schwab
301-759-9385
bhs@9northcentre.com

Cemetery Larry Brock
301-729-8257
lbrock@gapselfstorage.net

Hadassah Beshie Mandell
301-729-2773

Endowment Committee Open

Grocery Scrip Elena Manasse
301-729-8308
ebmanasse@atlanticbb.net

Ways In Which You Can Help B'er Chayim

Many people have asked how to make contributions to Temple of a more long-lasting nature. Following is a brief list of opportunities.

Endowment Fund

Western Wall Memorial outside of sanctuary
Small stone \$1000 - \$4999 Patron
Middle stone \$5000 - \$9999 Sponsor
Large Stone \$10,000 - \$19,000 Benefactor
Largest stones over \$20,000
Foundation Contributors
You may also donate through
your WILL or a TRUST.
Contact Treasurer Gayle Griffith for more
information on any of these options.

Yahrzeit Plaques

Cost of plaque - \$250
Preparation of plaque - about 1 month
Contact Gayle Griffith for more information

Tree of Life Leaves

Cost of leaf - \$40, which includes engraving
preparation of leaf - about 2 weeks
Contact Gayle Griffith for more information

Building Fund

Contributions of any amount may be made and
may be given for general building use, or a specific
building project (subject to Board approval).
Contact Debbie Lang for more information

Hadassah

Cards and certificates for all occasions
Contact Beshie Mandell for more information

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

This is a fund solely under the discretion of the
Rabbi. Contributions can be made to this fund
by making arrangements directly with the Rabbi.
The amount contributed is not disclosed to the
membership, nor is the use for these funds.

Ritual Committee

Bob Manasse Marlene Sallerson
301-729-8308 301-777-2926
Lee Schwartz Polly Hightower
301-777-8598 304-788-6622