



# CONGREGATION RODEPH SHOLOM

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

SPRING 2015 - ADAR/NISAN/IYAR/SIVAN MARCH/APRIL/MAY

NO. 25

## PASSOVER 5775

Pesach 2015 will begin on the evening of Friday, April 3rd with the First Seder and ends on Saturday, April 11th. The schedule of services is as follows:

Friday, April 3 First Seder	14 Nisan	6:45 a.m.	Erev Pesach Morning Services
		7:30 a.m.	Ta'anit B'chorim (Fast of the First Born)
		10:48 a.m.	Siyyum and Breakfast
		11:50 a.m.	Stop eating Hametz (sof zman tefilah Ge'ra)
		6:00 p.m.	Selling/Burning of Hametz completed
		7:01 p.m.	Mincha and Yom Tov Ma'ariv Services
			Candle lighting
Saturday, April 4 Pesach I Second Seder	15 Nisan	9:00 a.m.	Shabbat/Pesach Day/Morning Services
		5:30 p.m.	Shabbat/Yom Tov Mincha
		7:50 p.m.	Break for Shabbat Ma'ariv
		8:03 p.m.	Candle lighting
Sunday, April 5 Pesach II First Day of the Omer	16 Nisan	9:00 a.m.	Morning Services for Pesach Day 2
		7:20 p.m.	Yom Tov Mincha/D'var Torah/Ma'ariv for Hol Hamoed (no Torah reading)
		8:03 p.m.	Havdalah
Monday, April 6 Second Day of the Omer Pesach III	17 Nisan	6:45 a.m.	Services for Hol Hamoed Pesach
		5:45 p.m.	Mincha and Ma'ariv
Tuesday, April 7 Third Day of the Omer Pesach IV	18 Nisan	6:45 a.m.	Morning Services
		5:45 p.m.	Mincha and Ma'ariv
Wednesday, April 8 Fourth Day of the Omer Pesach V	19 Nisan	6:45 a.m.	Morning Services
		5:45 p.m.	Mincha/D'var Torah/Ma'ariv
Thursday, April 9 Fifth Day of the Omer Pesach VI	20 Nisan	6:45 a.m.	Morning Services
		6:00 p.m.	Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat abbreviated/Ma'ariv
		7:08 p.m.	Candle lighting
Friday, April 10 Sixth Day of the Omer Pesach VII	21 Nisan	9:00 a.m.	Morning Services
		11:00 a.m.	Yizkor and Memorial Plaque Dedications
		6:00 p.m.	Yom Tov Mincha and Ma'ariv Services
		8:11 p.m.	Candle lighting
Saturday, April 11 Seventh Day of the Omer	22 Nisan	9:00 a.m.	Morning Services
		7:10 p.m.	Shabbat/Yom Tov Mincha & Ma'ariv Services
		8:11 p.m.	Havdalah

## Congregation Rodeph Sholom

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[www.rodephsholom.com](http://www.rodephsholom.com)

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*Affiliated with the  
Jewish Theological Seminary and  
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.*

Rabbi	Daniel D. Victor
Rabbi Emeritus	Israel C. Stein, D.D.
Cantor	Michelle Teplitz
Executive Director	Mark Block
Ritual Director	Irwin Schildkraut
Education Directors	Beth Gold
	Limor Shefer
President	Jeffrey Klein
Gabbai	Sy Wiesenfeld
Men's Club President	Harold Goodman
Hazzan	Y'shaya Grama, z"l
Cantor Emeritus	David Leon z"l
Executive Director Emerita	Esther Kelman z"l

## Daily Services

Sundays.....	9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. <i>Bufferd/Vogel Chapel</i>
Weekdays .....	7:10 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. <i>Bufferd/Vogel Chapel</i>
Friday Evening.....	See Calendar or Website <i>Bufferd/Vogel Chapel</i>
Sabbath Morning.....	9:00 a.m. <i>Rabbi Harry Nelson Sanctuary</i>
Sabbath Mincha .....	Sundown, See Website <i>Bufferd/Vogel Chapel</i>

**For any changes and up-to-date service times, visit  
[www.rodephsholom.com](http://www.rodephsholom.com)**

## Mission Statement

*Congregation Rodeph Sholom is dedicated to two  
guiding principles:*

- To serve as a vibrant center for the practice and teaching of Conservative Judaism.
- To create a spiritual and social atmosphere in which congregants feel part of a larger synagogue family.

## In Memoriam

*"The Memory of the Righteous is a Blessing"*

### **Members:**

Doris Glunts – December 6, 2014

Catherine Mandel –

*Mother of Lisa Rappoport, Sister of Edith Winick  
and Gabi Dober – December 21, 2014*

Carole Sherman –

*Wife of Donald Sherman, mother of Harriet  
Moriber – January 26, 2015*

### **Relatives of Members:**

George Shire –

*Father of Larry Shire – December 8, 2014*

May Berenson Yecalsik –

*Mother of Robin Shannon – December 12, 2014*

John Sanger –

*Father of Jamie Sanger – December 27, 2014*

Morris Conecoff –

*Father of Jeff Conecoff – February 2, 2015*

## SIMCHAS

Rodeph  
Sholom past  
president  
**Austin Wolf**,  
for receiving  
the Stephen  
Koteles  
Memorial  
Award



presented by the Greater Bridgeport Veterans'  
Council this past Veterans' Day. Austin is a World War  
II veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Mazel tov to **Ellen Ashkins**, Director, Resident Life at  
Jewish Senior Services, who was honored for her 30  
years of service.

**Auden Grogins** who was nominated by Gov. Dannel  
Malloy and approved by the state legislature for  
CT State Superior Court. She previously served  
Bridgeport's 129th District in the General Assembly.

**Purim Carnival**  
Sunday, March 1st @ Beth El

**Megillah Reading &  
Deli Dinner**

Wednesday, March 4th @ Rodeph Sholom

*Purim  
Spectacular!*

*Put these Purim events  
on your calendar,  
and come in Costume!*

**Wednesday, March 4th  
at 5:45 p.m.**

BEGIN PURIM W/ EVENING MINYAN @ 5:45 P.M.  
FOLLOWED BY OPTIONAL DINNER @ 6:00 P.M.

*Megillah Reading!*

**Begins at 6:30 p.m. with our joint synagogue crew  
of Megillah readers for an incredible experience!**

**Plus** costume parade @ 6:30 p.m. with prizes for kids...  
and old kids!

*Purim Sing-Along Parodies!*

*Hey Man!* Each time *You-Know-Who* is mentioned,  
**EXPERIENCE THE SOUNDS OF PURIM!**

**BRING YOUR GRAGGERS**

(or borrow ours!)

• You'll laugh, make noise,  
and HAVE FUN •

**Sunday, March 1st  
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**



START THE MORNING WITH JOINT MINYAN @ 8:30 A.M.  
FOLLOWED BY BREAKFAST & ADULT LEARNING SESSION.  
FUN ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS @ 10:00 A.M.

**Amazing Games & Stuff...**

• Shushan bean bag toss • King Ahasuerus golf • Food fight game •  
Lollipop prize tree • Penny toss • Human balloon pop • Painting • Sand art •

**Amazing Prizes...**

• Prizes for every child •  
Chances to win raffles and silent auctions, including:  
Games, toys, stuffed animals, puzzles, prizes and gift certificates  
donated by local merchants •

**Amazing BBQ Lunch...**

• Hamburgers • Hot dogs • Chicken fingers • veggie burgers •  
Chips • Drinks •

BRING \$\$\$ FOR GAMES & FOOD! FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

**Also, Wednesday, March 4th  
(Shushan Purim) at 6:00 p.m.**

ENJOY A DELICIOUS  
**Buffet Deli Dinner!**



Deli • Pickles, Olives & Salads • Rye Bread and Rolls  
Cookies, Brownies and more!

\$15/person 12+ \$10/child 4-11 FREE under 3

**YOU MUST RSVP BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27th  
FOR FOOD PREPARATION!**

to Rodeph Sholom @ 203-334-0159  
or Beth El @ 203-374-5544

# FROM THE RABBI

*“Hazak Hazak v’nithazek – We are strong, we will be strengthened.”*

I am writing this letter the night after we read parshat *Vayehi* in synagogue, the last parsha of Breisheit, thus finishing the first book of the Torah. In parshat *Vayehi*, Jacob offers a blessing to each one of his sons, each one beautiful in its poetry but also quite striking in its expectations, praise, and sometimes criticism. Some deeds of Jacob’s children were mighty and some were shameful; some were compassionate and some were vengeful; yet no son left an indistinct impression on his father, the family, or the local community. For those men who were to be the progenitors of the nation of Israel, each life story began with having made an indelible impact.



Knowing that we would complete the book of Breisheit the next morning, I asked our Friday night minyan attendees if they had read any good books over the winter break, and how those books impressed them. One of our members said he liked to fact-check books, as often the story is good but incorrect representations or calculations of history or geography are distracting. Another said she enjoyed being surprised by an ending, often times only having gotten hints along the way, until the big crescendo in the final pages. One woman said she liked mystery books and was impressed by the steps taken to solve a case or the clues followed to find a treasure. She actually admitted that she would read a portion of the beginning, then skip to the end to discover the conclusion, and finally go back to see how the resolution came about. Another said she appreciated layered characters, literary figures showing the same nuances that we see in our own relationships.

These were wonderful answers, and in my mind they speak to why the Torah has always been number one on the international best-sellers list. Breisheit offers much for the history and geography buff with details of Abraham’s wanderings in the desert, battles fought between kings, and the rise and fall of tribes and cities. There are hints leading up to the climaxes of stories like Cain and Abel, the eventual destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the many patriarchal and matriarchal family reunions and reconciliations that take place. Biblical characters can be multidimensional. At one moment Abraham is fighting against injustice, at another moment he is about to commit what many of us moderns would call a sin. Joseph’s brother fails to stand up in true defense of Joseph, but then does stand up for the woman to whom he owed a husband from among his offspring (the story of Judah and Tamar). Some of these revelations about place, time, or humankind, found within Torah literature are hinted at or foreshadowed within the text itself, and some are through the interpretive process. We can be enriched by Torah when the exercise of reading and rereading the text, turning the pages over and over leads to it making a deeper impression on us year after year.

I offer my blessing for all of us as we read the second book of the Torah. Exodus is a story of redemption demonstrating that enlightenment comes when it is upon ourselves that we allow our sacred encounters of people, place, and time to make an impression. Sometimes we choose where the magic happens and sometimes the moment chooses us. If we allow them to penetrate our hearts and minds, in the end we will have been given the opportunity to do the greatest mitzvah of all—to make a lasting impression on or an unforgettable contribution to someone or something beyond ourselves (that is *kiddush hashem* – the sanctification of the divine name).

*Barukh attah Hashem, Elokeinu melekh ha-olam, hatov vehamativ.*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, sovereign of the universe, who is good and who does good.

B’Shalom,

*Rabbi Daniel Victor*

*Rodeph Sholom and B’nai Torah Present*  
***“Near Death Experiences” by Author and Motivational Speaker CJ Golden***

*Discussing her latest book: “Reflections from Beyond”*

*Wednesday, March 11th at 7:30 p.m.*

*Congregation B’nai Torah, 5700 Main Street, Trumbull*

**Open to the Community at no charge.**

*Refreshments following the program. Reservations appreciated but not required.*

*Made possible through a grant by the Jewish Federation.*

# SOCIAL ACTION



**New** – Do you have old sheets, blankets or towels that have seen better days!! We are collecting them for the local Animal Shelter. They use them in the crates so the animals stay warm and comfy. The box is in Friend Hall.

**Keys for Hope** – Bring in unwanted old or new, broken or whole keys and place them in the tub in Friend Hall for the non-profit organization, Keys for Hope. They will recycle them and donate the money to our Bridgeport food pantry.

**CT Food Bank Back Pack Program** – The first Wednesday of each month, 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

74 Linwood Avenue, Fairfield. Fill backpacks with foods that are sent home to kids in 18 school districts.

**Embassy Ladies** – We need a second driver to help take the ladies to Rodeph Sholom on Shabbat. We meet in their lobby at 9:45 a.m. Please contact Ellen Bedford to get on our schedule. We do not go if there is snow.

**St. John's Soup Kitchen** – We each bring ONE fresh veggie to add to our big fresh salad. Next date: March 31st, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. St. John's is located at Fairfield & Park Avenues. We need you.

**United Congregation Church (UCC)** – 2nd Wednesday of each month – State Street & Park Avenue, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. prior to the time they open to the hungry. Work in the food pantry stacking can goods.

**Plastic Bags** – For the United Congregation Church (UCC) people use them after coming to the food pantry. Put the bags in the lady's skirt in Friend Hall.

**Eye Glasses and Hearing Aids** – Place in the small Lions Club box in Friend Hall.



Watch for details about our Pillow Fight in April.

After this social action event called a Pillow Fight, the pillows will be donated to The Center for Family Justice (victims of domestic violence). We will invite the other three

synagogues to participate. Here is the link to get more information from the main organization.

<http://www.newmindspace.com/pillow-fight-day-2014>

Thank you to our volunteers who helped on Christmas Day at Operation Hope, St. John's Soup Kitchen on December 30th, United Congregation Church Community Dinner on New Year's Day and Barbara Srebnick who was available in January to teach people to knit hats for the school children. (See pictures below.)

Have an idea for a social action project? Contact a committee member.

Shelly Lawrence at [Shelly123@optonline.net](mailto:Shelly123@optonline.net)

David Stone at [dave2143@aol.com](mailto:dave2143@aol.com)

Marion Richer at [marricher@aol.com](mailto:marricher@aol.com)

Barbara Srebnick at [barbsreb1@earthlink.net](mailto:barbsreb1@earthlink.net)

Ellen Bedford at [ellenbedford@hotmail.com](mailto:ellenbedford@hotmail.com)



# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## BEING STRATEGIC

It was brought to my attention by a congregant who is a regular reader of New York Magazine that it has begun issuing its print magazine every other week, going from 42 to 26 issues annually. Some in the media suggested the magazine was losing market share by decreasing the visibility of its product. But, if you look closely you'll find that the complexity of today's digital world was not lost on the magazine. It has taken off in digital form and resources once devoted solely to traditional print have been reallocated to handle the explosive growth of its on-line efforts. In other words, what some perceive as retrenchment is really a focus for order in an ever changing world of expansion. The magazine remains committed to its core competency of content, and though the format is changing the mission remains focused on accomplishing much more.

If you were to ask our officers or trustees to create for you a list of the synagogue's core competencies you would generally expect to get one piece of paper back from each with their response. However, caution would be in order since you might be surprised to find that some need two, three or more sheets. Why? Well, we know there are different approaches to programs, activities and services. We also know that individuals acting on their own have different priorities. It is our collective task to define the competencies we believe are most critical. In doing so we might find it necessary to set aside some of our individual priorities. We try our best to fulfill our mission, occasionally following donor interests, most oftentimes pursuing Jewish values. We have spent a generation or more trying not to say "no." What has resulted is an institution that has been slower to evolve in this digital age where resources are spread thinly across many areas instead of concentrating in the areas of greatest need or interest. We haven't always worked deeply enough in key areas and as a result we find it hard to make real change. We are creatures of habit, comfort and custom, when we need to be aware religiously, spiritually and socially of where our member's are in today's world.

We have now spent many months in merger discussions with our sister congregation, Beth El. With six joint committees dedicated to education, governance, programming, property, ritual, and staffing, the efforts of our dedicated volunteers have been tight and focused on finding common ground to create a new congregation taking the best practices of both, make the changes that neither find to work, and create new ones to transition from "us" and "them" to "we." As I write this, our synagogue's Core Team and joint committee members continue to work tirelessly to affect change to present to you, our congregants a plan to create something new. The strategy is really a simple one — create a Conservative community that addresses the needs and wants of affiliated members; one that is open and welcoming to those who choose to participate. In other words to make the best synagogue we can in eastern Fairfield County.

Winston Churchill is believed to have said, "However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the

results." Strategy is more than how we do things; it suggests interlocking means of execution that yields maximum results. A strategy for change really needs to move the needle. Pieces of the strategy that are distracting — even if they feel right or important — need to go—and that's hard.

I go back to New York Magazine. There is no doubt there are disappointed readers who will miss the more frequent print edition. But you can make the argument that if New York Magazine had decided instead to expand its on-line presence while maintaining its weekly edition it very well might have found its resources stretched beyond its capability, not able to maintain one while expanding the other. And then, it might have disappeared not partially but completely, and that would really have disappointed its readers. The magazine's commitment to its ultimate goal was bigger than its leadership's desire to avoid some one-time difficult conversations with readers, some disappointment, and perhaps even some reader abandonment. But strategy is not just about today or even about us; it is about the larger picture; and sometimes, it is about saying no. Rodeph Sholom's commitment to our vision has to be bigger than the emotions that arise when we feel we are not getting everything we would like. To get more we might have to become better at saying "no." To be strategic and say "yes" to the right things and "no" to others will allow us to succeed. This growth may be different than what we have been comfortable with and used to for so long. In fact, it has to be different because what used to work doesn't anymore, much as we may not want to believe it or be a part of it. We have to ask ourselves some hard questions, think about our answers, and be prepared to act on them. What changes are we pursuing and why? What do we want to be doing and can we reasonably afford to do it? And, finally, can we say "yes" when we want to and "no" when we have to? That takes the most strategic thinking of all.

B'shalom,

*Mark Block*



## FIRST BORN BREAKFAST

Friday, April 3rd

Friday morning, April 3rd is the First Born Breakfast.

Services will begin at 6:45 a.m. followed by the breakfast at 7:30 a.m. The breakfast is sponsored by Howard Splaver in memory of his father, Bernard Splaver.

# GESHER: A BRIDGE TO TOMORROW

The Geshet L'Talmud Torah continues to build upon its main theme for the year –“Amcha” (Jewish Peoplehood). We’ve just completed our unit on immigration to America and we are beginning to focus on immigration to Israel. We are going to learn about the land, culture, food, climate, history and customs of Eretz Yisrael (Land of Israel). Lidor, our Israeli emissary, brings Israel home to our students. He makes it relevant and exciting.

We are proud to continue employing a very active, hands- on, and experiential teaching technique. This has been quite successful thus far and the children have loved it.

Our curriculum includes teaching Jewish values by living them. We are proud to report our Tikuun Olam (repairing the world) projects including collecting food, cooking for and feeding the homeless.

Thank you for sharing your sons and daughters with us while we undertake our important journey of Jewish education.

We would like to thank the Michelle Pavloff, Michael Bosik, Lisa Nuland and Robin Shannon Berenson for the wonderful pictures.

B'shalom,

*Beth Gold*

Co-Director

*Limor Shefer*

Co-Director



*Cooking for and feeding the homeless.*



*World Wide Wrap*



*We involve all our students' senses while learning about the Jewish holidays. Sukkoth provided a perfect opportunity for us to learn actively by making pumpkins and gourds to decorate our sukkah.*



*Rodeph Sholom and B'nai Torah religious schools joined forces to collect canned goods for the local food pantry. The children enjoyed creating Jewish structures with cans. Gesher constructed the hamsa (hand of protection) and B'nai Torah built a table setting.*



*Our program of study also includes Torah stories. We learned about Noah's ark and the importance of caring for animals in a very special and enjoyable way.*



## TORAH FUND

WOMENS LEAGUE:  
WOMEN ENSURING CONSERVATIVE/MASORTI JEWISH EDUCATION

As this article is being written, we are in the dead of winter. By the time you read this, spring will be on the horizon and Purim and Pesach will be fast approaching. For many women, this entails cleaning the house, planning the menus and endless trips to the food stores to find exactly what we need.

The modern Jewish family or *Mishpachah* has diversified in recent years. The common thread which holds us together is our love of Judaism. The Torah Fund Campaign supports the schools that educate our Rabbis, Cantors, Teachers and Synagogue Directors.



Since our last bulletin, the following women have joined our growing list of Benefactors:

Eidie Applebaum  
Susan Forman  
Beattie Bernstein  
Cheryl Green

Iris Krawitz  
Gracey Oksenberg  
Julie Rappoport

You can become a Benefactor and receive this beautiful **Tree of Life** pin by contacting Lisa Rappoport at 203-372-8203 or [rappo@optonline.net](mailto:rappo@optonline.net) or Roz Stein at 203-336-1360 or [rozstein@optonline.net](mailto:rozstein@optonline.net).

We wish you a Chag Purim Sameach, Happy Purim and Chag Pesach Sameach, a Happy and Sweet Pesach!

*Lisa Rappoport & Roz Stein*

Torah Fund Chairpersons

*Debbie Baer & Selda Dworkin*

Special Gifts Chairpersons

Torah Fund Cards are available for special occasions for \$4.00 each. Contact Sue Forman at 203-371-7535, Selda Dworkin at 203-374-6847 or [seldwork@aol.com](mailto:seldwork@aol.com) or Debbie Baer at 203-371-4915 or [dpbtrav@aol.com](mailto:dpbtrav@aol.com). Shalach Manot cards are available directly from the Torah Fund Office @ 212-678 8027.

# CANTOR'S CONCERT



Dear Friends:

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you for all of your love and support at my concert this past December. It was so wonderful to share the stage with so many friends and family and to perform some of my favorite Broadway songs for the more than 100 people in attendance. I would be remiss if I didn't also thank Mark Block, Carol Weinschel, Ellen Bedford and the entire committee that worked on making the concert such a success. Your hard work made such an impact and made the concert wonderful to be a part of. A special thank you goes out to all of the performers, my sister Liz McConnon, my cousin Cantor Melanie Cooperman, and congregants and friends Michelle Pavloff, Melissa Pavloff, Liz Ashkins, Faith Vogel and the children of Rodeph Sholom who added so much to our show. As we move into 2015, many exciting adventures are in store for all of us. I hope to have the opportunity to perform for you again, and see you at our wonderful Shul.

*Cantor Michelle Teplitz*





# UPCOMING B'NEI MITZVAH

## SARAH BOSIK

*Daughter of Darren and Lisa Bosik  
March 28, 2015*

Hi. My name is Sarah Bosik and I am a 7th grader at Madison Middle School in Trumbull. I love music, and play the flute. I also play volleyball.

For my bat mitzvah project, I sold hot chocolate, and gave the proceeds to Make A Wish Foundation which grants wishes to children diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses.

I would like to thank my mom, dad, and brother, Michael for giving me support throughout all of the preparations for my bat mitzvah. I would also like to thank Cantor Teplitz, Rabbi Victor, and all of my Hebrew school teachers over the years for taking part in my studies. I am very excited to share my special day with family and friends.



## ALLISON PAVLOFF

*Daughter of Melissa and Josh Pavloff  
April 19, 2015*

My name is Allison Pavloff and I am in 7th grade at Hillcrest Middle School in Trumbull. I love to skateboard, scooter and snowboard. I am currently on the swim team at the BSY (Bridgeport/Stratford YMCA,) and have swum competitively for five years. (Although I have been on swim teams since I was 7.)



I held a *Ben's Bells* event on January 25th at Rodeph Sholom as my Mitzvah Project. *Ben's Bells* is an organization which started in Arizona, but now also has a branch in Newtown, Connecticut. Their mission is quite simple: "To inspire, educate, and motivate people to realize the impact of intentional kindness, and to empower individuals to act according to that awareness, thereby strengthening us, our relationships and our communities." I first learned about *Ben's Bells* when they held an event at my former elementary school. From there I joined our family friend, Deborah Dean, at various other *Ben's Bells* events, as well as at their studio in Newtown.

I would like to thank everyone who helped me during my bat mitzvah preparation, especially Rabbi Victor and Cantor Teplitz. It was so nice of you, Cantor Teplitz, to continue our lessons even after you moved to New Jersey. I really enjoyed our face time meetings each week! I would also like to thank my friends and family for all of their encouragement and support.

*Thank you to the Rodeph Sholom community and Gesher families who were able to attend the Gesher Tu B'Shvat celebration in early February making our program such a success.*

Thank you to Rodeph Sholom congregants for all the kindness extended to my family up the death of my sister, Cathy Mandel.

*Edith Winick*

# PASSOVER PREPARATIONS

Passover is celebrated this year from Friday night, April 3rd through Saturday night, April 11th. The *Sedarim* are held on Friday and Saturday nights April 3rd and April 4th. For answers to your questions you can always consult Rabbi Victor. To learn and research questions on your own go to: <http://rabbinicalassembly.org/pesah-guide>, where you can find answers to how to make your home kosher for Passover.

## What is *Hametz*?

If one of the five grains – wheat, oats, rye, barley or spelt – comes in contact with water after being cut off from the ground, it becomes fermented or *hametz*. This fermentation takes 18 minutes, according to tradition. *Pesachdik* baked goods are made from flour which has not been fermented. The term *hametz* is also applied to dishes and utensils which have been in contact with *hametz* foods during the year.

## Why do most Ashkenazim not eat beans, rice, corn, peas or peanuts during Pesach?¹

Traditionally, Ashkenazic authorities considered rice, millet, corn, soy and legumes of various sorts to be forbidden on Passover because these items could be made into flour that could, in turn, be baked into bread. Some authorities permit corn oil because it could never be confused with a forbidden substance. Although many rabbinic authorities have prohibited the use of peanuts and peanut oil, the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has permitted their use and consumption on Passover, provided that these items have proper kosher certification and do not contain any *hametz* ingredients. (A responsum by Rabbi Ben Zion Bergman to that effect was adapted by CJLS in 1986 and appears in *CJLS Responsa* 1980-1990, pp. 263-266.) Beans, too, could be made into flour, hence they were prohibited. String beans are a vegetable, however, and could never be confused with a prohibited substance; therefore they are permitted (Klein, p. 116). Sephardic tradition never imposed these additional prohibitions, and so Sephardic authorities permit the eating of rice, corn, beans, millet, soy and legumes. Some have suggested that for the sake of Jewish unity all Jews should adopt the Sephardic tradition, but this has not yet become the standard practice and readers should consult their rabbis for further guidance in this matter.

## What is the *Siyyum B'chorim* (fast of the first-borns)?

On the day before Passover, the first-born of our people fast to commemorate their being spared the fate of the first-born Egyptians. But one may eat if he is participating in a *Seudat Mitzvah*, the festive repast which accompanies the performance of certain mitzvot. One such mitzvah is Talmud Torah study. Thus, when a scholar completes a significant section of material (e.g., a tractate of Talmud), it is customary for all present to join in a *siyyum*, a ceremony of completion with a meal. Any first-born who participates in the ceremony may eat. This is known as the *Siyyum B'chorim*. **The Siyyum will be held as part of the morning minyan on Friday, April 3rd starting at 6:45 a.m.**

## Why must we clean our houses so thoroughly before Pesach?

The rule against *hametz* on Pesach applies not only to eating but to enjoyment (*hana'ah*) and also involves removing all the *hametz* from one's home. No *hametz* is even allowed to be in the possession of a Jew during Passover. To facilitate this cleaning the following rituals are part of Passover preparations. (The text for the ceremonies can be found in a good Haggadah.)

a) ***Bedikat-Hametz***: After the house has been cleaned, on the night before Passover, we search once again for any crumbs of *hametz* we may have missed. We use a candle, a feather and a wooden spoon. This symbolizes that all the *hametz* which we could see was removed. **The ceremony of *Bedikat Hametz* is observed this year the night of Thursday, April 2nd.**

b) ***Bittul Hametz***: A formula renouncing any *hametz* left that we may have inadvertently missed is said canceling our responsibility for it, thus symbolically removing it from our homes. **The formula for Bittul Hametz is recited both after the Bedika the night before and at the burning the morning of Erev Pesach, this year Friday, April 3rd.**

c) ***Be-ur Hametz***: On the morning before Passover we burn the *hametz* that has been found during the search the night before. **This ceremony should also take place Friday morning, April 3rd.**

d) ***Mechirat Hametz***: We are not always able to destroy or get rid of all the *hametz*. It may be an economically hardship. So the rabbis ordained that a symbolic sale is made of all the *hametz* to a non-Jew in the community who then sells it back to us after Pesach. The *hametz* is then no longer "in our possession." This is normally done by the rabbi or ritual director for the entire congregation. Incidentally, it is only necessary to sell or destroy food stuffs; dishes and utensils are simply locked away in storage for the duration of the festival.

## What foods may not be used during Passover?

Since the Torah prohibits the eating of *hametz* during Pesach, and since many common foods contain some *hametz* (חמץ), guidance is necessary when shopping and preparing for Pesach.

Prohibited foods (*hametz*) include the following:

- biscuits
- cakes
- coffees containing cereal derivatives
- leavened bread
- pasta
- crackers

These are foods that are generally made with wheat, barley, oats, spelt or rye (grains that can become (*hametz*)). Any food containing these grains or derivatives of these

grains must be certified kosher for Pesach. Flavorings in foodstuffs are often derived from alcohol produced from one of these grains which would render that food (*hametz*). Such products also need Pesach supervision.

**What foods do or do not require Rabbinic supervision for Passover, and does it matter if they are purchased before or during the holiday?<sup>2</sup>**

These products require Kosher for Passover labels no matter when they are purchased: all baked products (matzah or any product containing matzah, cakes farfel, etc.) decaffeinated coffee and tea, wine, vinegar, liquor, oils, dried fruits, candy, chocolate-flavored milk, ice cream, yogurt, cheeses, butter, soda, canned tuna, all kinds of processed foods, frozen uncooked vegetables and fruit juice. (Tuna in water may contain hydrolyzed protein or vegetable broth that may be *hametz*. And many canned and bottled juices are clarified or stabilized with legume-based products, however, which are not listed on the ingredients.) For Sephardic Jews, the presence of kitniyyot in some of these products does not present a problem as long as there is no actual *hametz* present. Any processed food bought during Passover must be formally certified as kosher for consumption during the festival.

The following are permitted without a Kosher for Passover label if purchased before the festival but require rabbinic certification if purchased during Passover: pure white sugar with no additives, non-iodized salt, pepper, natural spices, frozen fruit, milk, filleted fish, olive oil (extra virgin only) and quinoa (with no additional ingredients).

The following are permitted without a Kosher for Passover label when purchased at any time, during as well as before Passover: fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, fresh whole fish and fresh or frozen Kosher poultry and meat (other than chopped meat), whole (not ground) spices and nuts (including whole or half pecans), pure black, green or white unprocessed tea leaves or tea bags, baking soda and unflavored coffee.

**May canned or frozen fruits and vegetables be used for Passover?**

Fruits and vegetables normally permitted for Passover use, when packed in water or their own juices, may be used. Avoid cans or packages containing added ingredients.

**Can any dishes and utensils used during the year be used for Passover?**

It is preferable to have dishes and utensils specifically reserved for Passover and stored away during the rest of the year. However, since this is not always possible, the rabbis ordained that certain types of utensils may be kashered, specifically prepared for Passover. However, earthenware, enamelware or porcelain utensils, if used during the year, may not be used during Pesach.

**How may utensils be kashered for Passover?**

a) Silverware, knives, forks, spoons made wholly of metal, if used during the year, may be kashered by scouring thoroughly and then immersing in boiling water. They are

then *Pesachdik* and *parve*.

b) All table glassware is permitted after thoroughly scouring. There is also a practice of soaking glassware for 72 hours before Passover; follow the custom used in your family.

c) Fine translucent chinaware, if not used during the previous year, is permitted.

d) Metal pots and pans used for cooking purposes only (but not for baking), if made wholly of metal, may be used during Passover if first thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water. Kashering is done in the following way: fill a large pot with water and heat to boiling. Take the utensil, tie a string to it and immerse completely in the boiling water. For small items, a cord netting can be used to dip several at once. This process renders utensils *Pesachdik* and *parve*.

**How may the stove be kashered?**

The stove is prepared by thoroughly scrubbing and cleaning all pans and turning on full flame or the clean cycle in the oven and all the grates.

**How may a microwave be kashered?<sup>3</sup>**

Microwave ovens that have no convection option should be scoured thoroughly. One should then place an eight ounce cup of water inside the oven and microwave until the water almost disappears. At least six of the eight ounces need to evaporate. There is no need to heat until the water is completely evaporated, as this may damage the oven. A microwave that has a browning element cannot be *kashered* (CJLS Responsa 1980-1990, pp. 248-249).

**How may a dishwasher be kashered?**

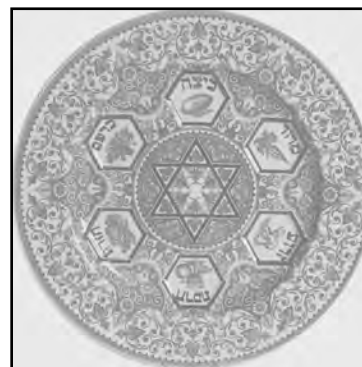
A dishwasher may be used for Passover after thoroughly scouring with boiling water and then running it empty for two cycles, one with soap and one without.

**How may a refrigerator be kashered?**

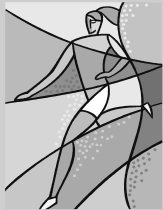
Remove all *hametz* food and opened packages. Clean thoroughly with boiling water and scour all the racks. In a freezer, frozen *hametz* foods should be put in a special closed-off section and should be sold with other *hametz*.

**What is Ma'ot Hittim?**

Matzah for Pesach is a mitzvah and a collection was taken up before Pesach to provide money for matzah and other Passover essentials to the poor. This is called *Ma'ot Hittim*.



1,2,3 "The Observant Life," Martin S. Cohen, senior editor.



## The Women of Rodeph Sholom

General Meeting: Monday, April 20th  
7:30 pm, Hirsch Hall, Rodeph Sholom

Panel discussion on Death with Dignity  
Based on the books

***Me Before You***, by JoJo Moyes and  
***The Conversation***, by Dr. Angelo Volandes

The panel will include doctors, lawyers and people familiar with the books. These books discuss end-of-life issues, *Me Before You* as a novel, and *The Conversation*, a non-fiction account of several cases written by the doctor involved.

The Hadassah Book Group will participate.

Be a part of the discussion of this important issue.

There is no charge for the program.

## MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club will be hosting our annual wine tasting event to sample and purchase kosher wines for Passover. All wines purchased will be delivered in time for Passover. We will also email to the congregation order forms for those who cannot attend the event.

This year Yom HaShoah will be on April 16, 2015 – 27 Nisan 5775 as the Men's Club will mail out yellow candles around mid-March to the congregation in remembrance of those who perished in the Holocaust.

Sunday, February 1, 2015, we sponsored the World Wide Wrap where we came together and lay tefillin. We also provided breakfast for all who attended. We also provided tefillin for those who needed a pair.

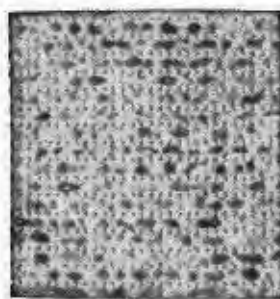
We are also looking forward to Purim, with last year being such a great success it can only get better.

B'Shalom,

*Harold Goodman*  
President

## SALE OF CHAMEITZ

*Note: If possible, all hametz – food not acceptable during Pesach (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 it to the office (Congregation Rodeph Sholom, 2385 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604) no later than Wednesday, April 1st. Any monies received will be placed in the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, unless otherwise indicated.*



KNOW ALL PEOPLE BY THESE PRESENTS: That I, the undersigned do hereby make and appoint RABBI DANIEL VICTOR 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'arovet 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 (your address here). RABBI VICTOR has the full authority and power to sell said *hametz* and to lease said place or places where in said *hametz* may be found, upon terms and conditions as discretion dictates. RABBI VICTOR 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 VICTOR or a rabbinic substitute lawfully does or causes to be done by virtue of these presents.

And to this I hereby affix my signature.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Congregations Rodeph Sholom and Beth El

# *Save the Date* MITZVAH Day

## SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH

9:00am - Help Make Minyan

10:00am - 11:15am - Participate in 4 Activities

11:15am - 12:15pm - Lunch Together



**Come join members of our congregations at Beth El, 1200 Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield. Not only is this a social action event to help the needy, but an opportunity to meet members from both synagogues.**

- Fill women's pocketbooks with toiletries to be given to women in the Bridgeport Shelters who are in crisis.
- Separate eyeglasses for the Lion's Club – Broken or whole, prescription or not, clear or sunglass lenses.
- Tie knots along small fleece blankets for Brady's Smile to be given to infants in ICU units of area hospitals.
- Assemble goody bags for people at Operation Hope and soup kitchen. Each ziplock bag will be filled with trail mix, carrots, homemade cookies.

Please fill out this RSVP form and send it back by mail to your synagogue office, or email to:

**Ellen Bedford** at [ellenbedford@hotmail.com](mailto:ellenbedford@hotmail.com)

**Betty Feldman** at [feldmanb@optonline.net](mailto:feldmanb@optonline.net)

**This event is FREE for adults and teens ages 13 and older only. You must reserve a space by April 15th.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

No. Attending \_\_\_\_\_

# CONTRIBUTIONS, REMEMBRANCES & CONGRATULATIONS

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Ella Rose Newman  
*Bill & Joan Newman*  
 Noa Victor's Birth  
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*Bob & Judith Jacobson*  
*Sam Prussin*  
*Bradd & Syrene Robbins*  
*Judy & Peter Zeidel*  
*Lisa Weiss*  
 Rozzy Bernstein's 75th Birthday  
*Judy & Peter Zeidel*  
*Lisa Weiss*  
 Leon Spivack's 100th Birthday  
*Robert & Judith Jacobson*

### **In Memory of:**

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*Dorothy Hurwitz*  
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## **ADELLE & MYRON ALPER SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

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Carole Sherman  
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## **MORT BERNSTEIN FUND**

### **In Honor of:**

Leon Spivack's 100th Birthday  
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### **In Memory of:**

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*Bernard Baer*

## **PRAYER BOOK FUND**

### **In Honor of:**

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*Carol, Jeffrey, Randa,*  
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**Donations received after February 15, 2015 will appear in the next bulletin.**

## MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

We congratulate the following couples who will be celebrating anniversaries of 25 years or more in January, February and March.

### January

Harvey and Judy Hevenstone	56 years
Wallace and Sheila Sloves	54 years
Milton and Betty Rosenbloom	53 years
Steve and Marsha Brody	41 years
Sy and Gayle Israel	38 years
Henry and Marilyn Banach	36 years
Allan and Marilyn Warmflash	36 years
Jack and Gail Weintraub	32 years

### February

Harvey and Barbara Gaberman	59 years
Richard and Dorothy Blank	56 years
Aaron and Sheila Ment	48 years
Charles and Susan Widlitz	47 years

### March

Louis and Muriel Lobovits	67 years
Alan and Beverly Schpero	63 years
Jack and Marilyn Grogins	56 years
Israel and Roslyn Stein	55 years
Charles and Eidie Applebaum	49 years
Jeffrey and Irene Robinson	46 years
Stanley and Shirley Baron	43 years
Jerome and Gail Meyer	39 years
George and Jacqueline Goldfarb	29 years
Laurence and Joy Hoffman	28 years
Marc and Nina Pearlman	27 years

**MAZEL TOV TO ALL THESE COUPLES  
 FROM ALL OF US AT RODEPH SHOLOM.**



# MARCH 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>10 Adar <b>1</b></p> <p>Purim Carnival @Beth El 11 a.m.</p> <p>Gesher</p>	<p>11 Adar <b>2</b></p>	<p>12 Adar <b>3</b></p> <p>Gesher</p>	<p>13 Adar <b>4</b></p> <p>Erev Purim Megillah Reading/ Deil Dinner 5:45 p.m.</p>	<p>14 Adar <b>5</b></p> <p>Purim</p>	<p>15 Adar <b>6</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Services 5:30 p.m. Candlelighting</p>	<p>16 Adar <b>7</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Services 6:35 p.m. Havdalah</p>
<p>17 Adar <b>8</b></p> <p>Daylight Savings Time</p>	<p>18 Adar <b>9</b></p>	<p>19 Adar <b>10</b></p> <p>Gesher</p>	<p>20 Adar <b>11</b></p> <p>Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. C.J. Golden at B'nai Torah 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>21 Adar <b>12</b></p> <p>Men's Club Passover Wine Tasting 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>22 Adar <b>13</b></p>	<p>23 Adar <b>14</b></p>
<p>24 Adar <b>15</b></p> <p>Gesher</p>	<p>25 Adar <b>16</b></p>	<p>26 Adar <b>17</b></p> <p>Gesher</p>	<p>27 Adar <b>18</b></p>	<p>28 Adar <b>19</b></p>	<p>29 Adar <b>20</b></p> <p>6:00 p.m. Services 6:39 p.m. Candlelighting</p>	<p>1 Nisan <b>21</b></p> <p>6:45 p.m. Services 7:43 p.m. Havdalah</p>
<p>2 Nisan <b>22</b></p> <p>Gesher</p>	<p>3 Nisan <b>23</b></p>	<p>4 Nisan <b>24</b></p> <p>Gesher</p>	<p>5 Nisan <b>25</b></p> <p>Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>6 Nisan <b>26</b></p>	<p>7 Nisan <b>27</b></p> <p>6:00 p.m. Services 6:47 p.m. Candlelighting</p>	<p>8 Nisan <b>28</b></p> <p>Sarah Bosik Bat Matzvah</p>
<p>9 Nisan <b>29</b></p> <p>Gesher</p>	<p>10 Nisan <b>30</b></p>	<p>11 Nisan <b>31</b></p> <p>No School</p>			<p>6:00 p.m. Services 6:54 p.m. Candlelighting</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. Services 7:58 p.m. Havdalah</p>

# APRIL 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			12 Nisan Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.	13 Nisan	14 Nisan First Born Breakfast First Seder	15 Nisan Second Seder Pesach I
16 Nisan Pesach II	17 Nisan Pesach III	18 Nisan Pesach IV	19 Nisan Pesach V	20 Nisan Pesach VI	21 Nisan Pesach VII	22 Nisan Pesach VIII Yizkor & Memorial Plaque Dedications
23 Nisan	24 Nisan	25 Nisan	26 Nisan Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 p.m.	27 Nisan	28 Nisan 9:00 a.m. Services 6:00 p.m. Services 7:09 p.m. Candlelighting	29 Nisan 9:00 a.m. Services 7:15 p.m. Services 8:13 p.m. Havdalah
30 Nisan Allison Pavloff Bat Mitzvah	1 Iyar Women of Rodeph Sholom Panel Discussion 7:30 p.m.	2 Iyar	3 Iyar	4 Iyar	5 Iyar 6:00 p.m. Services 7:17 p.m. Candlelighting	6 Iyar 7:15 p.m. Services 8:21 p.m. Havdalah
7 Iyar Mitzvah Day 9:00 a.m. Sponsored by Rodeph Sholom & Beth El	8 Iyar	9 Iyar	10 Iyar	11 Iyar	24 Iyar 6:00 p.m. Services 7:24 p.m. Candlelighting	25 Iyar 7:30 p.m. Services 8:28 p.m. Havdalah

# MAY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					12 Iyar 6:00 p.m. Services 7:31 p.m. Candlelighting	13 Iyar Daniel Shannon Bar Mitzvah 7:30 p.m. Services 8:36 p.m. Havdalah
14 Iyar 3	15 Iyar 4	16 Iyar 5	17 Iyar 6 Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.	18 Iyar 7 Lag Ba'Omer	19 Iyar 8	20 Iyar 9
Gesher		Gesher			6:00 p.m. Services 7:39 p.m. Candlelighting	7:45 p.m. Services 8:43 p.m. Havdalah
21 Iyar 10 Mother's Day	22 Iyar 11	23 Iyar 12	24 Iyar 13	25 Iyar 14	26 Iyar 15	27 Iyar 16
Gesher		Gesher			6:00 p.m. Services 7:46 p.m. Candlelighting	7:45 p.m. Services 8:50 p.m. Havdalah
28 Iyar 17	29 Iyar 18	1 Sivan 19	2 Sivan 20 Annual Meeting: 6:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 p.m.	3 Sivan 21	4 Sivan 22	5 Sivan 23
Gesher						
6 Sivan 24	7 Sivan 25 Memorial Day Synagogue Office Closed	8 Sivan 26	9 Sivan 27	10 Sivan 28	11 Sivan 29	12 Sivan 30
13 Sivan 31					6:00 p.m. Services 7:59 p.m. Candlelighting	8:00 p.m. Services 9:02 p.m. Havdalah



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Congregation Rodeph Sholom Men's Club

# Passover Wine Tasting & Sale

Thursday, March 12, 2015

6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

\$10 Admission    Hors d'Oeuvres, Raffles, and More!

Questions and RSVP to the synagogue office 203-334-0159  
or [RodephWineTasting2015@aol.com](mailto:RodephWineTasting2015@aol.com)

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