



# The MESSAGE

HOUSTON, TEXAS   APRIL 6, 2008   1 NISAN 5768   VOL. XLIII, No. 15



FRIDAY, APRIL 11

Candlelighting Time 7:29pm  
6:00pm Shabbat Renewal  
with the Alter Family  
6:15pm Shabbat Yachad  
6:45pm J.B. Greenfield Chapel

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Parashat Metzora  
8:30am J.B. Greenfield Chapel  
9:00am Museum Minyan  
9:30am Sanctuary Service  
B'nai Mitzvah: Andrew & Lindsey Alter  
9:30am Jr. Congregation  
11:30am Weekly Torah Study  
7:15pm J.B. Greenfield Chapel

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Candlelighting Time 7:33pm  
6:00pm Shabbat Renewal  
6:15pm Shabbat Yachad  
6:45pm J.B. Greenfield Chapel

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

Parashat Achrei  
Shabbat HaGadol  
Erev Pesach  
8:30am J.B. Greenfield Chapel  
9:00am Museum Minyan  
9:30am Sanctuary Service  
11:30am Weekly Torah Study

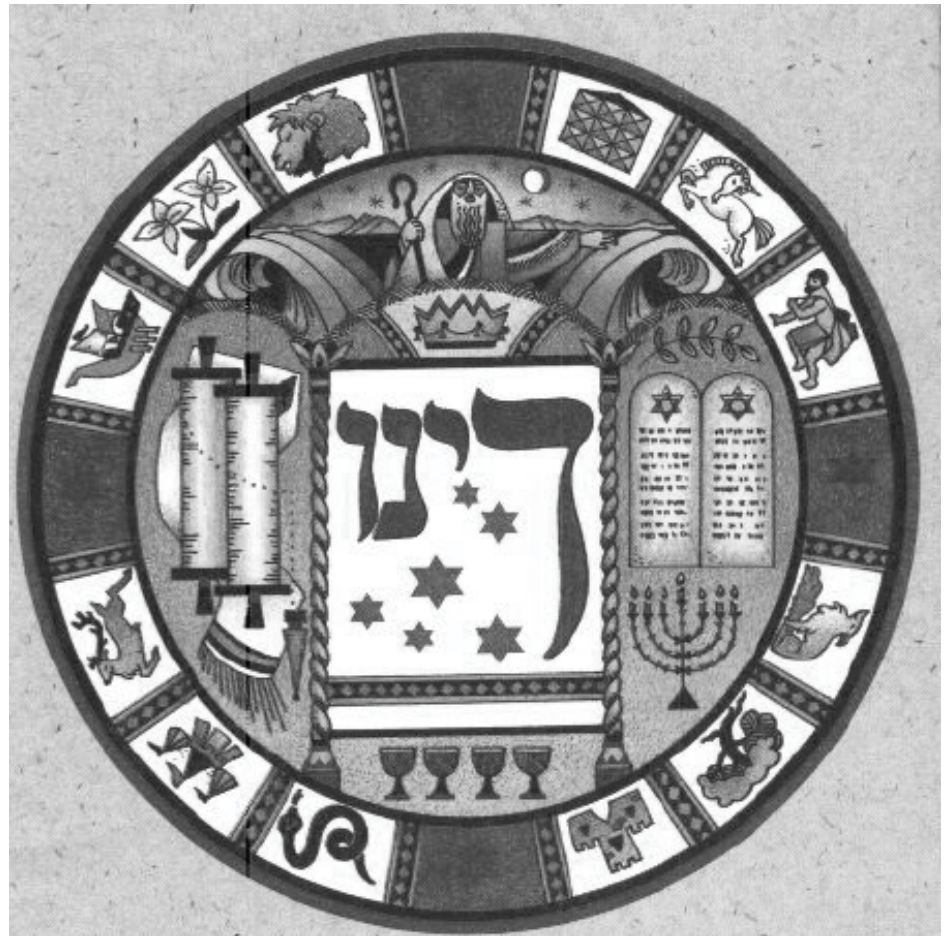
FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Candlelighting Time 7:38pm  
Hol Hamoed Pesach IV  
6:00pm Shabbat Renewal  
6:15pm Shabbat Yachad  
6:45pm J.B. Greenfield Chapel

SATURDAY, APRIL 26  
Pesach VII

8:30am J.B. Greenfield Chapel  
9:00am Museum Minyan  
9:30am Sanctuary Service  
11:15am Family Life Newborn Service  
11:30am Weekly Torah Study  
7:30pm J.B. Greenfield Chapel

## May You Be Blessed to Enjoy a Sweet and Joyous Passover!



Check Out our Beth Yeshurun Website

[WWW.BETHYESHURUN.ORG/PASSOVER.HTM](http://WWW.BETHYESHURUN.ORG/PASSOVER.HTM)

- ◆ Sell Your Hametz Online
- ◆ What to Eat on Passover—and What Not to Eat
- ◆ Cleaning and Kashering Your Kitchen
- ◆ Selecting the Perfect Haggadah
- ◆ Ways to Make Your Seder More Enjoyable for Kids
- ◆ Complete Passover Service Schedule

During Passover, the Synagogue Office will be closed Monday, April 21

# WITH RABBI ROSEN

## *At heart, Passover remains the same*

**I**t never fails that when I ask my high school seniors each year to recall their most unforgettable Jewish memories, a large percentage of the class thinks of something connected to Passover. It's probably true with you, too.



I have wonderful memories of celebrating Passover as a child. Of course, a lot has changed since then. My mom would always get ready for Passover by buying all the kosher-for-Passover foods available back in the Fifties: matzah, matzah meal, matzah cake meal, potato starch and macaroons.

Today, of course, we have kosher-for-Passover bagels, muffins and donuts; frozen full-course dinners and side dishes; and tons of cakes and candies. The food industry has capitalized on our desire for ways to make Passover both tasty and easy, and what could be easier than matzah ball soup in a jar or "home made" gefilte fish that comes in easy-to-boil loaves?

I welcome all of these new products though I know many people don't. Sometimes members will tell me that it doesn't "feel" like Passover when you're being served a rich and delicious chocolate fudge cake or a kugel made from Passover noodles. "You can't even tell it's Passover sometimes!" congregants complain.

But really, you can call a Passover bagel whatever you like; it's not a bagel! Nor are most Passover foods exact replicas of their hametz counterparts. If Passover food was that good, we'd eat it year-round, but it isn't and we don't! We can rave about our wonderful Passover brownies at the seder, but by the end of the holiday we're moaning for "real food."

Still there's no question, Passover has never been easier to celebrate than it is in our own day.

Our sedarim have improved in many ways, too. The story may be the same, and so are most of the songs, but the Haggadot we use are a dramatic improvement

over the booklets on which I was raised.

Growing up, we used the Maxwell House and the Shulsinger editions, which had very nice covers but very boring text. The pictures were cartoonish and uninteresting, and the English translations were atrocious.

The Haggadah we will be using at my family's table this year is the beautiful Feast of Freedom, our Conservative Movement's official Haggadah. Illustrated with bright and colorful pictures, this Haggadah has a fresh and modern translation which is accompanied by very helpful and insightful instructions and commentaries. It's a Haggadah you can actually enjoy and not want to rush through.

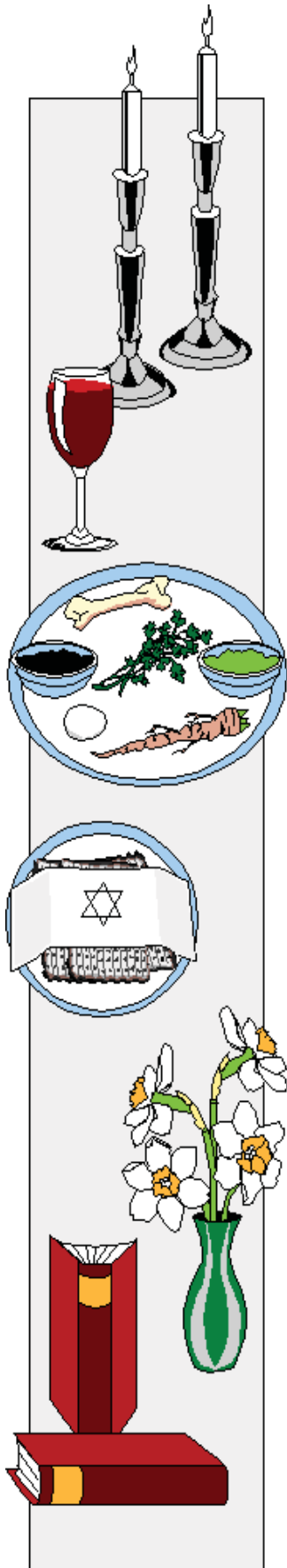
What has not changed, thankfully, is the power Passover still has to bring families together and to enable friendships to be renewed each year. This year, as every year, so many Beth Yeshurun members have opened their homes to guests from our congregation and community who are alone and have no place to go for seder. What a wonderful mitzvah this is, and how exquisitely it captures the opening words of the Haggadah: "Let all who are hungry come and eat" and "Remember the stranger."

Passover is the quintessential Jewish holiday where we open our doors and feel hard-pressed to say no to anyone. I love that about Passover and am inspired by the re-enactment of this pageant and all that surrounds it each year.

Marcie joins with me in hoping that your Passover is a sweet and blessed one. Hag kasher v'sameach to you all!



# PASSOVER SERVICES 2008



## Thursday, April 17

6:45 A.M. Service for the First Born - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

**PASSOVER BEGINS SATURDAY, 8:33 P.M. [No Passover Service tonight]**

## Sunday, April 20 [Passover 1st Day]

8:30 A.M. Passover Service - J.B. Greenfield Chapel  
9:30 A.M. Combined Sanctuary/Museum Minyan Passover Service  
6:00 P.M. Passover Service, 2nd Night - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

## Monday, April 21 [Passover 2nd Day]

8:30 A.M. Passover Service - J.B. Greenfield Chapel  
9:30 A.M. Passover Service - Museum Minyan  
7:45 P.M. J.B. Greenfield Chapel

## Tuesday, April 22

6:45 A.M. Passover Hol Ha-Moed Service - J.B. Greenfield Chapel  
7:45 P.M. Afternoon/Evening Service - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

## Wednesday, April 23

6:45 A.M. Passover Hol Ha-Moed Service - J.B. Greenfield Chapel  
7:45 P.M. Afternoon/Evening Service - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

## Thursday, April 24

6:45 A.M. Passover Hol Ha-Moed Service - J.B. Greenfield Chapel  
7:45 P.M. Afternoon/Evening Service - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

## Friday, April 25

6:45 A.M. Passover Hol Ha-Moed Service - J.B. Greenfield Chapel  
6:00 P.M. Shabbat Renewal - Freedman-Levit Sanctuary  
6:15 P.M. Shabbat Yachad  
6:45 P.M. J.B. Greenfield Chapel

## Saturday, April 26 [Passover 7th Day]

8:30 A.M. Passover/Shabbat Service - J.B. Greenfield Chapel  
9:00 A.M. Passover/Shabbat Service - Museum Minyan  
9:30 A.M. Sanctuary Passover/Shabbat Service  
7:30 P.M. Passover Service - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

## Sunday, April 27 [YIZKOR/Passover Last Day]

8:30 A.M. J.B. Greenfield Chapel  
9:30 A.M. Combined Sanctuary/Museum Minyan Passover Service  
7:45 P.M. Passover Minchah/Maariv/Havdalah

**PASSOVER ENDS SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 8:42 P.M.**

# PASSOVER 2008

## A Passover Miscellany

### *What is the Counting of the Omer (Sefirat ha'Omer)?*

Beginning the second night of Passover, we include a brief but special blessing in our evening prayers: the nightly counting of the omer. The counting of the omer takes us back to the days when the Temple stood in Jerusalem and our people were farmers. Passover marked the beginning of the spring harvest and, in gratitude to God, farmers would bring an offering of barley to the Temple. The volume of the offering was an omer. A second and different offering was to follow seven weeks later at the start of Shavuot, so our Sages commanded that we count the days connecting these two offerings. That is something we continue to do even though the Temple was destroyed by the Romans nearly 2,000 years ago.

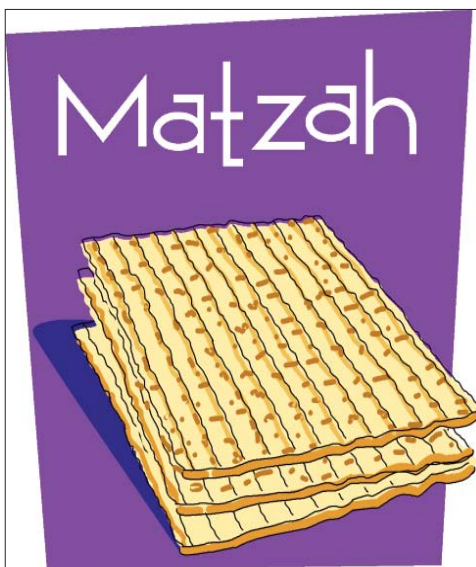
Each evening, preceding the Aleinu, we recite the simple blessing, "Praised are You, Lord Our God, King of the Universe, Who has commanded us to count the omer." We then announce the day's count; for example, "Today is the first day in the counting of the omer." A psalm or meditation follows.

Though the ritual is brief, it reminds us of our roots and serves as yet another link between us, our ancestors of old, and our connection to Eretz Yisrael.



**DO YOU HAVE ROOM AT YOUR SEDER** for a member of our congregation who has no family in town or is new to our community, or for a college student who cannot go home for the holiday. Please call Rabbi Rosen's assistant, Norma, (713) 666-1881, ext. 311 or [NGONZALES@BETHYESHURUN.ORG](mailto:NGONZALES@BETHYESHURUN.ORG)) to let her know.

### *Selecting the Perfect Haggadah Can Make All the Difference*



It's the easiest thing in the world to just pull out the old and frayed Manischewitz or Maxwell House Haggadot from the china cabinet drawer and use them yet again. After all, Passover only comes once a year; why spend good money on new Haggadot for just two nights? Right? Not!

If we want Passover to be more intelligible to those at our seder—especially our children—then we will want to use a Haggadah that is written in clear and understandable English, that is handsomely illustrated, and which contains lucid instructions and commentary. And that will mean doing something we may never before have considered

doing: shopping for new Passover Haggadot!

Haggadot can be found in our Sisterhood Gift Shop, in local bookstores (try Barnes & Noble and Borders), or online. There are dozens of wonderful Haggadot for every age, interest and background.

Two of the very best such Haggadot, in my opinion, both of which are available in our wonderful Gift Shop:

**THE FEAST OF FREEDOM**, by the Rabbinical Assembly. Exquisitely illustrated with eye-catching and dramatic art, each page of this stunning Haggadah has "What," "Why," and "How" sections to explain to the seder leader and participants what is happening. My family enjoys using this Haggadah each year at our seder.

I've fallen in love with a wonderful Haggadah: "**A DIFFERENT NIGHT: THE FAMILY PARTICIPATION HAGGADAH.**" It's filled with dozens of games, dialogue starters, activities and explanations that will make your seder with children the best ever. There's enough ideas in here to make your sedarim unique for years!



Calling All  
Newborns born  
April 2007  
to March 2008

Please send to Bonnie Suchart at [BONSUCHART@AOL.COM](mailto:BONSUCHART@AOL.COM) the following information, needed for a Newborn booklet: your child's name, siblings names, parents names, grandparents names and where they live (city/state), child's date of birth and Email photograph of your child.

We will have a Newborn Service Saturday, Apr. 26, at 11:15 where your child will be blessed by the Rabbis at Beth Yeshurun.

**2<sup>ND</sup> NIGHT**  
**PASSOVER SEDER**  
**SUNDAY, APR. 20 - 6:00 PM**  
**AT BETH YESHURUN**  
**FOR**  
**YOUNG FAMILIES**  
**& YOUNG ADULTS**



- \* Fun & Interactive!
- \* Led by Rabbi Strauss & Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs
- \* \$45 for adults
- \* \$15 for children (ages 5 - 12)
- \* Under 5 - Free
- \* Kids menu available

**MARTINE LEVINE**  
**FRESH FOODS CATERING**

**RSVP DEADLINE: MONDAY, APRIL 7**  
 Send your check and information to Tammy Friedman, BY Program Director, 4525 Beechnut, Houston, TX 77096. Your check is your reservation.

*Celebrate Passover with the gift of a*  
**Seder Centerpiece**

Benefiting the Beth Yeshurun Brotherhood  
**SILVER KIDDUSH CUP FUND**  
 for Beth Yeshurun B'nai Mitzvot



Have a beautiful spring floral table arrangement delivered in time for your first Passover Seder. These lovely flowers will express your best wishes to a spouse, relatives, friends, teachers and other special people.

Best of all, the net proceeds will go to the BYB Silver Kiddush Cup Fund to help provide a cup for all of our B'nai Mitzvah youth.

This project is made possible through the combined efforts of Ben Shamoelian, Village Flowery, Paul Katz and The Beth Yeshurun Brotherhood.

Simply fill out the order form below and mail it with a check payable to Beth Yeshurun Brotherhood for \$59 per floral arrangement. **Mail the order form and check to: Paul Katz, 5740 Longmont Lane, Houston, TX 77057.**

**ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE MONDAY, APRIL 14TH.**

ORDERED BY:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

For purchase of \_\_\_\_\_ Seder Centerpieces at \$59 each. Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DELIVERY TO BE MADE TO:

Recipient's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_



**Deadline for ordering: Monday, April 14th!**

**Beth Yeshurun Gift Shop**

- for all your Passover needs -

Beautiful Passover merchandise is arriving daily in our store including many styles and designs at all price points. The Gift Shop is an authorized dealer of *Annie Glass* and *Nambe* as well as many other nationally known brands. We also represent many Judaic artists of America and Israel.

Come and see our newest merchandise!

- \*Seder Plates \*Matzo Plates \*Kiddush cups \*Elijah & Miriam cups
- \*Candlesticks \*Charoses dishes \*Matzo holders \*Matzo Covers
- \*Afikoman Bags \*Novelty items \*Horseradish-Saltwater sets
- \*\*"Matzo" fabric Place Mats/Napkins/Kippas/Aprons \*Haggadahs: Many choices including "A Different Night" and "Thirty Minute Seder" as well as everything in between.

**MECHIRAT HAMETZ (SELLING OF HAMETZ)**

Sale of Hametz can be arranged through the Chapel until 10 a.m., Friday, Apr. 18, by calling Rabbi Rosen's office at (713) 666-1881, ext. 311, or by mailing-in the following coupon:

**"I hereby appoint Rabbi David Rosen to sell all of my hametz and to arrange for its valid and legal sale according to Jewish Law."**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

# AROUND THE SYNAGOGUE

## ■Museum Minyan celebrates Purim



*Cantor Diane Dorf, Amanda Zivley, Daniel Morgen and Jacob Grzebinski*

Museum Minyaners jubilantly celebrated Purim in costume and enjoyed the full megillah reading, chanted so beautifully by many who learned to chant megillah for the first time this year. Proud teacher Cantor Diane Dorf and her talented students, Amanda Zivley, Jacob and Sarah Grzebinski and their mom and dad, Elizabeth and David, together with Ari Blum and veteran megillah readers Daniel Morgen, Dr. Daniel Musher and Marc Levin, chanted. Adults particularly enjoy the Purim megillah reading in the Museum Minyan as they come costumed for the holiday. Beth Yeshurun's traditional egalitarian minyan, the Museum Minyan recently celebrated ten years of Shabbat and holiday services. Weekly Shabbat services are lay led and provide a wonderful sense of community among participants. Newcomers are made welcome with an aliyah and an introduction. The Minyan meets in Stein Hall every Shabbat. Services begin at 9:15 a.m. and conclude around 11:15 a.m. and are followed by Kiddush. Everyone is welcome.



*Olga Lara and Dr. Daniel & Karol Musher*

## ■JCC seeks Meals-on-Wheels volunteers



The Jewish Community Center Meals Program needs a minimum 25 new volunteer meal delivery drivers. Now serving over 300 clients per day, JCC-MOW continues to increase homebound meal services delivered within our area during the weekday lunch hour. Please consider joining our roster of committed, regular volunteer drivers. We would love to hear from you, even if you can only volunteer for holidays, vacations, once a week or once every couple of weeks. Please call Timothy Stewart, Meals Program Supervisor, at (713) 729-3200, ext. 3251, for more information.

## ■Hillel Graduation April 9 at 7:30 p.m.



Wednesday, Apr. 9, 2008, promises to be a truly special day for Hillel High School at Congregation Beth Yeshurun. Twenty-one graduating twelfth graders will receive diplomas for successful completion of their high school Jewish studies. This year, we have a new structure for our Graduation Ceremonies, including a student speaker from Rice University who is involved in Hillel on campus, as well as a community speaker. We will also be handing out several awards. Graduation begins at 7:30 p.m. and the community is invited to celebrate with the graduates and their families.

Members of the graduating class and their parents are:

- Allison Bono - Susan and Michael Bono
- Eric Cohen - John and Tina Cohen
- Jeffrey Croft - Adele and Steve Croft
- Allison Feiwell - Lorri and John Feiwell
- Jordan Finkelman - Sandra and Steven Finkelman
- Betty Gerech - Molly Brown and Arje Gerech
- Gary Greenfield - Eugenia and Al Greenfield
- Neil Gustafson - Stephanie and Paul Gustafson
- Samantha Hoffer - Gayle and Scott Hoffer
- Adam Kaiser - Sara and Hugh Kaiser
- Daniella Lewis - Klara and Michael Lewis
- Noah Meicler - Jeannie Wermuth and Youval Meicler
- Sam Propis - Karen and David Propis
- Emily Robinson - Polly and Ralph Robinson
- Shawn Segal - Sharon and Michael Segal
- Joshua Silver - Jan and Bernard Silver
- Brooke Singer - Paula and Kenneth Singer
- Dayna Skolkin - Holly and Mark Skolkin
- Benjamin Smith - Marion and Richard Smith
- Ryan Streusand - Shelley Streusand
- Sam Wilson - Frida and Stuart Wilson

## Interest-Free Student Loan Applications



Applications for interest-free student loans are now being accepted by Jewish Family Service for the 2008-2009 academic year. Student loan applications will be accepted from students entering their first year of college, as well as students in undergraduate, graduate or professional programs. Students seeking these loans should call JFS and schedule a personal interview in preparation of securing the application. All applications and paper work must be completed by May 15. For more information and to schedule a personal student loan interview at Jewish Family Service, please contact Toby Newman, LCSW, at (713) 667-9336 or [TNEWMAN@JFSHOUSTON.ORG](mailto:TNEWMAN@JFSHOUSTON.ORG).

# FAMILY ALBUM

## ■ Anniversaries

4/6	40	Bob and Bobbie Arkus	4/13	39	Ed and Madelyn Bernstein	17	Michael and Leslie Lahar
4/7	51	David and Sandra Cohen		5	Irving and Paula Pozmantier	12	Todd and Betsy Siff
	62	Jacob and Rose Eisenstein		13	Jack and Sharan Schlossberg	4/22	6 Jay and Elaine Gerstenhaber
	62	Jacob and Sophie Gluckman		51	William and Leah Schultz		13 Ian and Christine Meltzer
	62	Emanuel and Lillian Halprin	4/14	32	Leonid and Rimma Cherches		18 Abraham and Lisa Rubinsky
4/8	2	Michael and Alec Covey	4/14	17	Christopher and Brindley King		34 Jack and Elizabeth Weingarten
	57	Harry and Marilyn Halpin	4/15	35	Martin and Fredell Belasco	4/23	2 Lee and Robbie Wright
	8	Tom and Debora Pacholder		24	Stuart and Jane Weil	4/24	4 James Lerdal and Cheryl Lipshutz
	24	Paul and Barbara Stern	4/17	20	Jay and Lori Dushkin		9 William and Jacqueline Schwartz
	8	Erik Sulman and Dara Less		20	George and Marjorie Leventon	4/25	15 James and Leslie Gosdin
	21	Steven and Noga Tobias		8	Edward and Trina Schukar		23 Vladimir and Dina Shlimak
	35	Terry and Glenda Waldman	4/18	50	Sam and Zina Braslavsky	<b>■ Condolences</b>	
4/9	8	Matthew and Simone Berry		10	Stephen and Cathryn Mellon	<i>The congregation extends its sincerest</i>	
	3	Douglas and Jennifer Rosenzweig		60	Arnold and Loretta Roman	<i>condolences to the families of --</i>	
4/10	27	Joe and Jean Victor	4/19	22	Howard and Patricia Sussman	<i>Fan Schwartz, Joe Frank,</i>	
4/11	27	Louis and Joanne Nash		44	Rich and Vikki Evans	<i>Lil Goldsobel, Jacobo Jalfon,</i>	
4/12	22	Jeffrey and Carol Bowman	4/20	34	William and Lynn Goldberg	<i>Clyde Ritchie, Justin Rose,</i>	
	27	David and Carolyn Karesh		45	Howard and Florence Bernstein	<i>Bessie Toplitsky,</i>	
	17	Ilya Yun and Lyubov Kovtun		12	Roberto and Zully Lufschanowski	<i>Esther Bialostozky Tornell</i>	
			4/21	12	Eric and Melanie Marglous	<i>May their memories be for a blessing.</i>	
					Bill and Libby Baum		

## ■ Condolences

*The congregation extends its sincerest condolences to the families of --  
Fan Schwartz, Joe Frank,  
Lil Goldsobel, Jacobo Jalfon,  
Clyde Ritchie, Justin Rose,  
Bessie Toplitsky,  
Esther Bialostozky Tornell  
May their memories be for a blessing.*



## ■ Alters serve as first Bender-Levy lobby volunteers

Jack and Shirley Alter, long-time members of Congregation Beth Yeshurun, recently served as our first information desk volunteers in the Bender-Levy lobby. Because Beth Yeshurun offers not only events for our members, but also hosts many events for the Jewish community, it was felt that visitors could benefit from volunteers who would help direct them to their event and answer general questions about Beth Yeshurun.

Jack and Shirley were available to greet visitors during a recent event. Since many people enter the synagogue through the Bender-Levy lobby, the Alters were given many opportunities to be helpful - and they gracefully rose to the challenge!

If you would like to be an information volunteer during an upcoming event, please contact Sharon Wilton, Office Manager, at SWILTON@BETHYESHURUN.ORG or (713) 666-1881, ext. 373.



## The MESSAGE

CONGREGATION BETH YESHURUN  
WWW.BETHYESHURUN.ORG

4525 Beechnut Street  
Houston, Texas 77096  
Office (713) 666-1881

themessage@bethyeshurun.org  
Synagogue Fax (713) 666-7767  
School Office (713) 666-1884

### HOW TO CONTACT US

Rabbi David Rosen.....drosen@bethyeshurun.org  
Rabbi Steven Morgen.....smorgen@bethyeshurun.org  
Rabbi Brian Strauss.....bstrauss@bethyeshurun.org  
Rabbi Jack Segal.....rabsegal@aol.com  
Hazzan David Propis.....dpropis@bethyeshurun.org  
Stuart Wilson, Synagogue President.....swilson@bethyeshurun.org

Luis Dorfman, Executive Director.....ldorfman@bethyeshurun.org  
Rabbi Danny Horwitz, Greenfield Chapel.....rabbidanny@aol.com  
Mindy Rosenthal, ES Principal... mrosenthal@bethyeshurun.org  
Gale Friedman, Pre-School Principal.....gfriedman@bethyeshurun.org  
Devora Urkowitz, Dir. of Judaic Studies,..durkowitz@bethyeshurun.org  
Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs, HHS Prn....fdjacobs@bethyeshurun.org  
Monica Woolf, Librarian.....mwoolf@bethyeshurun.org  
Cecilia Garfinkel, School Business Mgr...cgarfinkel@bethyeshurun.org  
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Beth Yeshurun Gift Shop.....giftshop@bethyeshurun.org  
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Lisa Unsell, Publications Assistant.....lunsell@bethyeshurun.org  
Tammy Friedman, Program Dir.....tfriedman@bethyeshurun.org  
Bonnie Suchart, Family Life Coord.. bonnie@texasmktggroup.com  
Ann Rogers, Sisterhood President.....arog925@yahoo.com  
Paul Katz, Brotherhood President.....pkatz88@comcast.net  
Lester Rosen, YES Group Chair.....lirosen@aol.com

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# 2008 BY FAMILY RETREAT

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## *A Tremendous Success*



On the Shabbat of Feb. 29 – Mar. 1, over 230 participants had the opportunity to spend a magnificent Shabbat together in Galveston at the San Luis Resort. Members of all ages came together to enjoy the learning, the programs, the hospitality and the wonderful sense of community that we created together. It was a time to celebrate, relax and enjoy the company of our fellow congregational family.

None of this would have been possible if it were not for the following individuals:

First, thank you Robin and Joshua Berry and Samantha and Gil Melman for co-chairing our 2008 Beth Yeshurun Family Retreat! Their support and participation in helping to run the retreat was invaluable. Together, they were an incredible team that I was blessed to work with in planning the program. Everyone was thoroughly impressed by their passion, determination and commitment to make the retreat such a success. By going above and beyond, they helped to add so many innovations and special “extra touches” that made this Shabbat one to remember for a very long time.

Our synagogue is blessed to have our Program Director Tammy Friedman and our own Family Life Coordinator Bonnie Suchart. We were blessed to have their talents and skills in helping to organize our retreat this year. There is no doubt that the retreat would have never succeeded as well as it did without them.

We were blessed to again welcome Rabbi Shawn Fields-Meyer from Los Angeles. Rabbi Shawn captured everyone’s attention with her passionate words of wisdom and advice on how to become even better Jewish parents. She was personable and approachable, and added just the right dynamic touch to a perfect weekend.

Throughout the weekend, there was separate programming for adults, youth (1st – 6th grade), and for our little ones (K and under). Thank you to our exceptional retreat educational staff led by Marilyn Albert, Ashley Borden, Cantor Diane Dorf, Melanie and Lauren Finkelstein, Rabbi

Steve Morgen, Griselda Quintanilla, Mindy Rosenthal, Rabbi Jack Segal, Frank Silberlicht, Lisa Strauss, Bonnie Suchart, Devora Urkowitz, Coach Melanee Weiser and Eve Zehavi for working so hard to provide vibrant programs for our adults and children. It was also a pleasure to welcome Jump Bunch and Fundamentally Music.

Our services were beautiful and uplifting. Thank you to Debbie Cutler, Cantor Diane Dorf, Dr. Dan Roubein, Paul Silverman, and Rabbi Jack Segal for reading Torah and helping to lead the adults in prayer. Thank you to Emma Danziger, Liam Faigen, and Jake Feldman for reading Torah at our special Junior Congregation Service and to Sam Ennis and Joseph Fields for helping to lead our Junior Congregation Service.

A special thank you goes to our junior counselors for helping us with our children: Ami Fields-Meyer, Marah Fields, Brooke and Emily Herzog, Anna Rosenthal, Eden Slawin, Courtney and Megan Suchart, Bailey Wedelich and Jamie Weiser.

Thank you to the following individuals for their help in organizing different aspects of the weekend - people like them are key assets to what makes our synagogue such a beautiful community: Amy Ferber, Ali Katz, Hayley Feldman, Leslie Roffwarg, Sarah Gibbs, Michelle Hecht, Margie Fields, Taryn Daniels, Gina Roberts, Toiee Roubein, Donna Silverman, Pam Penn and Peta Rubenstein.

Finally, thank you to the Sperling family for your generosity and support by helping to underwrite some of the costs associated with our retreat through the Elaine Sperling Retreat Fund. If you are interested in doing a wonderful mitzvah and helping to offset the costs for future family retreats, please contact me (Rabbi Strauss) at [BSTRAUSS@BETHYESHURUN.ORG](mailto:BSTRAUSS@BETHYESHURUN.ORG) or (713) 666-1881, ext. 307, in order to learn how you can contribute.

I hope you and your family will join us for our next Beth Yeshurun Family Retreat that will be held on Jan. 29 – 30, 2010. Save the date now when we will get to do it all again.

*Rabbi Brian Strauss*

# B'NAI MITZVAH



**ANDREW ALTER**  
APR. 11-12

Andrew Michael Alter is the son of Laura and Rory Alter and the twin brother of Lindsey Alter. He is the grandson of Shella Pryzant Plastrik and the late Leslie Blair Plastrik, and Shirley and Jack Alter. Andrew is a graduate of the Gifted and Talented "Vanguard" Program at Herod Elementary and is currently a seventh

grade honor student at The Emery/Weiner School where he is a member of the student council and a representative to the Houston Diversity Coalition. He enjoys participating in math competitions and performing in school musicals. Andrew has won numerous awards for his piano performances and original piano compositions, and enjoys computer games, reading, tennis and spending time with family and friends.

For his Mitzvah Project, Andrew is participating in "Adopt an Apartment" at the Aishel House. To help ease the plight of those seeking medical care in Houston, Andrew will be donating new household items and repainting an apartment. As a participant in the Rabbi's ten-percent plan, Andrew is donating a portion of his monetary gifts to the American Heart Association in memory of his grandfather, Leslie Blair Plastrik.



**LINDSEY ALTER**  
APR. 11-12

Lindsey Diane Alter is the daughter of Laura and Rory Alter and the twin sister of Andrew Alter. She is the granddaughter of Shella Pryzant Plastrik and the late Leslie Blair Plastrik, and Shirley and Jack Alter. Lindsey is a graduate of the Gifted and Talented "Vanguard" Program at Herod Elementary and is currently a sev-


enth grade honor student at The Emery/Weiner School where she enjoys performing in the middle school musicals and participating in math competitions. Recently, Lindsey was awarded a first-tier art award by the Texas Art Educators Association for her painting. Lindsey has won numerous awards for both playing the piano and her original piano compositions, and enjoys singing, tennis and spending time with family and friends.

For her Mitzvah Project, Lindsey is participating in "Adopt an Apartment" at the Aishel House. Lindsey will be donating new household items and repainting an apartment to make it more comfortable for those in Houston seeking medical treatment. As a participant in the Rabbi's ten-percent plan, Lindsey is donating a portion of her monetary gifts to the American Heart Association in memory of her grandfather, Leslie Blair Plastrik.

## Did you know?

**95% of those served by CanCare volunteers feel more hopeful about the future as a result of that relationship.**

**At CanCare, we are fighting cancer with Hope!**



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ISRAEL PARADE BONE MARROW DONOR DRIVE

YOU MAY BE HIS  
**MIRACLE MATCH!**



**This boy and others like him need your help.**

This young boy was diagnosed with a rare genetic blood disorder known as HLH and is in need of a bone marrow transplant. Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation, North America's Jewish donor registry, has been facilitating drives and providing donor and patient support since 1991. For more information call **800-9-MARROW** or visit [www.giftoflife.org](http://www.giftoflife.org).

**Event Information** **Israel Parade**

**It's easy to join the Gift of Life Registry!**

- Eligible donors must be between the ages of 18-60 and in general good health.
- Registration involves a simple swab of cells from inside the cheeks (No blood required at this stage).
- Those previously tested do not need to be retested.



**When:** Sunday, April 6, 2008  
10:30 am to 2:00 pm

**Where:** Israel Parade  
5601 South Braeswood  
Houston, TX 77096

**Contact:** Hannah White, 713-526-4918 or  
[hwhite@houstonhillel.org](mailto:hwhite@houstonhillel.org)



[www.giftoflife.org](http://www.giftoflife.org) | 800-9MARROW

Tax-deductible Contributions: Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation | 800 Yamato Road, Suite 101 | Boca Raton, FL 33431

# SPRING AKIBA

SUNDAY MORNINGS  
APRIL 6, 13, MAY 4, 11 & 18

CONSULT DISPLAY MONITORS FOR ROOM ASSIGNMENTS.

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

- ▶ Invitation to Judaism with Rabbi Morgen
- ▶ Nuts & Bolts I with Rabbi Strauss
- ▶ Hebrew Reading II with Cantor Dorf
- ▶ Everyday Holiness with Rabbi Horwitz

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

- ▶ Beginning Hebrew with Cantor Dorf
- ▶ Authentic Kabbalah with Rabbi Horwitz
- ▶ Torah and Commentaries with Rabbi Nimchinsky

For more information, please contact Gayle Schnurr  
at [GSCHNURR@BETHYESHURUN.ORG](mailto:GSCHNURR@BETHYESHURUN.ORG) or  
(713) 666-1881, ext. 317

## It's a Mitzvah!

Interested in sponsoring a Chapel Minyan weekday breakfast, a Chapel or Museum Minyan Shabbat Kiddush or shalashudos in memory of your loved one? Contact Eileen Pettigrew, Food Service Manager, at [epettigrew@bethyeshurun.org](mailto:epettigrew@bethyeshurun.org) or (713) 666-1881, ext. 368. Sponsorships will be acknowledged in service announcements.

Standard breakfasts and kiddushes are \$125 minimum, Shalashudos are \$150. Special meals may be arranged with the Food Service Department and monthly sponsorships are available. All sponsorships must be paid in advance. Dates may be reserved in the order they are received.



## Israel@60 Parade

Sunday, April 6 • 10:30 a.m.  
Congregation Beth Israel to the JCC

Rain or Shine!

Israel will be 60 years old this year, and our community is celebrating Israel@60 with plenty of exciting events including a community-wide parade!

Enthusiastic spectators welcome! Cheer parade participants along the bayou!



Golda and Gil Baker, *Israel@60 Chairs*  
Linda Freedman Block and Judy Yambra, *Parade Chairs*



The Israel@60 events are being underwritten through generous funding by the Barbara and Michael Gamson Family Foundation, Saranne and Livingston Kosberg, the Lilly and Norman Lazarus family and Fred's 70th.com Birthday Fund in cooperation with the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston



## CO-SPONSORED BY CONGREGATION BETH YESHURUN

WEEKDAY SERVICES IN THE J.B. GREENFIELD CHAPEL

Apr 6-11: Sun 8am (Rosh Chodesh), Mon-Fri 7am, Sun-Thu 7:30pm

Apr 13-18: Sun 8am, Mon-Wed, Fri 7am, Thu 6:45am (Ta'anit Bechorot) Sun-Thu 7:30pm

Apr 20-25: Sun-Mon 8:30am (Pesach I & II), Tue-Fri 6:45am (Hol Hamoed Pesach I-IV),  
Sun 6pm, Mon-Thu 7:45pm

Next Message Deadline:

Apr 15 for the May 11 issue

Apr 29 for the May 25 issue

May 20 for the June 15 issue

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