



The MESSAGE

HOUSTON, TEXAS APRIL 27, 2008 22 NISAN 5768 VOL. XLIII, No. 16



FRIDAY, MAY 2

Candlelighting Time 7:42pm
6:00pm Friday Night Alive!
with the Miller and
Wolinsky Families
6:45pm J.B. Greenfield Chapel

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Parashat Kedoshim
8:30am J.B. Greenfield Chapel
9:00am Museum Minyan
9:30am Sanctuary Service
B'not Mitzvah: Rachel Miller &
Jessica Wolinsky
9:30am Jr. Congregation
11:30am Weekly Torah Study
7:30pm J.B. Greenfield Chapel

FRIDAY, MAY 9

Candlelighting Time 7:46pm
6:00pm Shabbat Renewal
with the Johary Family
6:15pm Shabbat Yachad
6:45pm J.B. Greenfield Chapel

SATURDAY, MAY 10

Parashat Emor
8:30am J.B. Greenfield Chapel
9:00am Museum Minyan
9:30am Sanctuary Service
Bar Mitzvah: Ari Johary
9:30am Jr. Congregation
11:30am Weekly Torah Study
7:30pm J.B. Greenfield Chapel



Presents



Israel's Timeless Hits

The Best From Israel's Chassidic Song Festivals

In collaboration with Congregation Beth Yeshurun

Sunday, May 4 • 7:00 p.m.

Congregation Beth Yeshurun • 4525 Beechnut

From 1969-1979, hundreds of catchy new tunes for liturgical texts were premiered at these festivals and ultimately, many became part of our familiar synagogue prayer melodies. American Jews, fluent in Hebrew or not, welcomed easy-to-learn melodies for more congregational singing. Cantors Robert Gerber, David Propis, and Vadim Tunitsky join world renowned Cantor Simon and Aliza Spiro along with the Richard Brown Swing Orchestra to celebrate ten years of this great music originally created for Israel's Chassidic Song Festivals.

Pre-Sale \$18 General Admission • \$36 Reserved Seating

At the Door \$25 General Admission • \$45 Reserved Seating

For tickets and details visit
www.houstonjewish.org or call 713-551-7255



FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2008 AT 6:00 P.M.
Friday Night Alive!

WITH RABBI MORGEN

Remembering the Holocaust on Yom HaShoah

Yom HaShoah is the Jewish People's day to mourn the loss of 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazi regime in World War II. The day has been established as the 27th day of the Jewish month of Nisan, coming one week after the seventh day of Passover, and one week before Israel's Memorial Day (Yom Hazikaron).

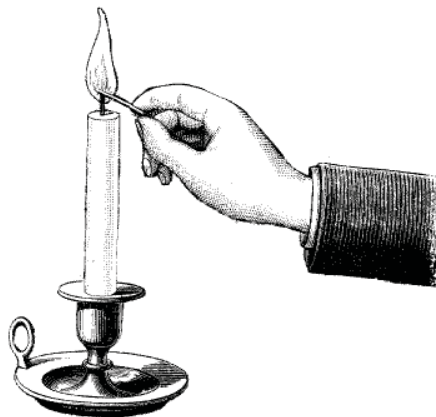


But how was this day chosen? How should we remember the victims of Hitler's war against the Jews? What ceremonies, services, or rituals can we create to adequately express the horrors of this cataclysm in Jewish history? These are questions we don't often ask, but which should be explored.

Let us first consider some terms.

Shoah is the Hebrew word for "calamity," certainly an appropriate term for this event. "Holocaust" actually means a burnt offering, as in a sacrifice that is wholly burnt on an altar. Although this is the most common English name, it has a negative connotation. It would seem to imply that the Jews who were murdered (perhaps most of them were, in fact, burned in the gas ovens of the death camps) were somehow sacrifices to God. But the butchers of Auschwitz were surely not God's priests, our tradition abhors human sacrifice, and it is beyond comprehension to understand that this was God's purpose. Many Jews, therefore, prefer the Hebrew term, Shoah.

How the 27th of Nisan was chosen as the day of commemoration for the Shoah is quite a story. Many Orthodox Jews initially wanted to include the mourning for the Shoah with other calamities memorialized on Tisha B'Av, the 9th day of the Jewish month of Av. On that day, according to tradition, both the First and the Second Temples were destroyed, as well as a host of other tragic events throughout the centuries of Jewish life ever since. Others thought one of the minor fast days related to the Temple's destruction should be used as the date for remembering the Shoah. Specifically, the 10th of Tevet was suggested because it was the least observed fast day in the traditional Jewish calendar. That is the day that the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem began – eleven years before the Temple itself was destroyed.



These dates were ultimately rejected because they failed to capture the uniqueness of the horror of the Shoah. Combining our mourning for the destruction of nearly all of European Jewry (and one third of the entire Jewish population in the world!) with prior tragedies seemed to ignore the magnitude of this singular event. On the other hand, the Shoah lasted for several years. How do you decide which date should mark its occurrence?

In Israel, those who revolted against the Nazis – and particularly, those who survived the Warsaw Ghetto uprising – wanted to highlight the defiance of the Nazis. They suggested commemorating the heroism of the resistance on the date the Warsaw Ghetto uprising began. Unfortunately, that date was the first day of Passover. The Nazis had chosen that day to assault the ghetto for a number of reasons. First, they knew it was a Jewish holy day and they therefore hoped

there would be less resistance from the Jews. Second, they especially hoped to destroy the nature of the festival itself: a day of liberation of the Jewish people from the slavery of Egypt. Finally, the Nazis thought it would only take a day or two to "liquidate" the ghetto, and they would therefore have a birthday present for der Führer. (Hitler's birthday according to the western calendar happened to fall on the day after Passover that year.)

But the traditional Jews strongly objected to commemorating the Shoah on Passover. Passover is a joyous holiday of celebrating our redemption. And despite the acts of heroism in Jewish (and non-Jewish!) resistance, there can be no question that the essential nature of the Shoah was cataclysmic. It surely should be commemorated fundamentally as a day of deep mourning.

The uprising ended on May 16, 1943, having started on April 19. Although many in the Orthodox movement did not want the day to fall during Nisan at all (because the entire month has traditionally been considered semi-festive in honor of Passover), a compromise was ultimately reached in the Israeli Knesset. The 27th of Nisan was officially called "Yom HaShoah veHagevurah" or "Devastation and Heroism Day." If the 27th of Nisan fell on Friday or Saturday, then Yom HaShoah would be postponed until Sunday. That way it would not interfere with the Sabbath, nor the preparation for

Continued on page three.

B'NOT MITZVAH



RACHEL MILLER
MAY 2-3

Rachel Helene Miller is the daughter of Gena Golden Miller and Adam Hall Miller and the older sister of Noah Hirsch Miller. She is the proud granddaughter of Stanley Golden and the late Roslyn Aronowitz Golden and Dr. Harold and Rici Scholl Miller. Rachel is a graduate of the

Beth Yeshurun Day School. She is currently in the seventh grade attending The Emery/Weiner School and is enrolled in all honors classes. Rachel is active in the school play. She is an avid reader, writer and artist. To date, two of Rachel's poems have been published. Rachel also enjoys ballet and backpacking across Colorado during her summer holiday. For her Mitzvah Project, Rachel is designing, manufacturing and selling purses to sponsor a wish for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Rachel has also pledged a portion of her Bat Mitzvah gifts to the American Cancer Society to honor members of her family who have battled this disease.



JESSICA WOLINSKY
MAY 2-3

Jessica Katz Wolinsky is the daughter of Dr. Marcia Katz and Dr. Joel Wolinsky. She is the step-daughter of Asher Aremband. Jessica is the sister of Rebecca Wolinsky and step-sister of Lisa and Jody Aremband. Her grandparents are Trudy and the late Jerome Katz of Cranston, RI and Irene and the late Arnold Wolinsky of Toms River, NJ.

Jessica is a seventh grade honor student at The Emery/Weiner School. She enjoys volleyball, softball and theatre. For her Mitzvah Project, Jessica will be coordinating a team to participate in The Great Strides Walk, sponsored by the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, to raise funds for research in cystic fibrosis. Jessica is thrilled to share her simcha with her family and friends who have traveled from California, Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Virginia, Washington and Israel.

■ Yom HaShoah *(continued from page two)*

the Sabbath. It also meant that Yom HaShoah would be held before Israel's Independence Day, a day that would bring uplift from the mourning. A more complete explanation of the history of this day can be found in Rabbi Irving Greenberg's wonderful book on the Jewish calendar: *The Jewish Way – Living the Holidays*, pages 314-372.

As for rituals and services to commemorate Yom HaShoah, there have been many attempts to provide common practices and liturgy, but so far none have been totally successful. One obvious custom is the lighting of a memorial candle, as we do on the anniversary of the death of a close relative. Services typically include the Mourner's Kaddish and El Maleh Rahamim – the traditional Memorial Prayer. In the 1980's the Reform movement created a liturgy called "Six Days of Destruction" which included stories of survivors that were contrasted with the six days of Creation. In 2003, our movement unveiled a Megillat Hashoah, the "Scroll of the Holocaust," which was written in the style of the Book of Lamentations, the Biblical book poetically depicting the horrors of the destruction of Jerusalem and the First Temple. In Houston, we have often featured scholars or survivors who spoke about the Holocaust, incorporated into a service that included musical pieces, poetry and readings.

It has been over 60 years since the end of World War II. There are fewer and fewer survivors and eye witnesses to tell us what they saw, heard and felt. It becomes all the more important for us to infuse this day with power and meaning so that we should never forget, never become complacent, never shut our eyes to the possible dangers that human beings can create when they start down the road of ignorance to fear, to hatred, to dehumanization, to annihilation of "the other."

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 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.

■ Cub Scouts at Emanu El welcomes you!

Cub Scout Pack 1190, sponsored by Congregation Emanu El, will hold its Spring Event for prospective members Sunday, Apr. 27, at 1:45 p.m. at Emanu El. The Pack meets most weeks from 1:45 - 3 p.m. and is open to boys in the 1st - 5th grades. Boys learn by doing. Cub Scouting helps them develop by having the boys try new activities in a safe and supportive atmosphere. Activities include family camping, service projects, building pinewood derby cars, participating in field trips, playing games and learning skills that will help them later, especially when they become Boy Scouts. If you can't be there, or would like to talk more, contact Cubmaster, Wanda Rauscher (979) 849-7646 or wwrauscher@dow.com.

PURIM CARNIVAL 200



8 - A PICTORIAL ESSAY



■ Purim Carnival thank-yous

We extend a big thank you to all those who helped with Purim Carnival 2008. It was a huge success and everyone had a great time.

SPECIAL THANK YOU'S GO TO. . . Carnival Co-Chairs: Beth Greenwald and Shelley Sorkin; Rabbi Brian Strauss; Family Life Coordinator: Bonnie Suchart; Program Director: Tammy Friedman; Penny Haber; Hillel High School Principal/Youth Director: Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs; Food Services Manager: Eileen Pettigrew; Gary Swartz and crew; Lu Dorfman and George Bruno and staff.

Following are just some of the people, groups and corporations who made the carnival possible through sponsorships. **CORPORATE SPONSORS. . .** Acupuncture & Nutrition Clinic; Dr. David Wadler, D.D.S.; benjy's in the Village; Camp Young Judea-Texas; Cleburne Cafeteria; Doodles; The Emery/Weiner School; Dr. Bruce Friedman; Dentistry for Children; Joseph Goetz, MD;

haynesboone, Attorneys; Kenny & Ziggy's; Lakey Electric Co.; National Appraisal Partners; Pasadena Insurance Agency, Inc.; Polar Air Corporation; Doyle Raizner, LLP; Roberts Carpet & Fine Floors; Sonik Vision; Telemus Capital Partners and Village Family Practice.

INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS. . . Beth Yeshurun Brotherhood; Beth Yeshurun Sisterhood; The Greenwald Family; Dana L. Guefen and Family; Lorraine and Dr. Buddy Horwitz; The Plantowsky Family; The Sorkin Family; Andrea, David, Julie and Jonathan Stein and Judy and Ronnie Yambra and Family.

AND A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO. . . Any Occasion Party Rentals; Rabbi David and Marcie Rosen; Rabbi Jack Segal; Kroger; New York Bagel & Coffee Shop; Rose Monuments and all of the volunteers who helped set up, work and take down the carnival itself!

The Purim Carnival would not be the great event it is without the willingness of each one of you to give of your time, treasure and talent.

AROUND THE SYNAGOGUE

The Beth Yeshurun Family Life Committee invites you to celebrate Israel's 60th birthday with an Israel style Shabbat dinner!



Date: Friday, May 16, 2008

Time: 5:15 p.m.

Cost: \$15/adults

\$7/children (ages 3 - 12)

Free/children under 3 (but please RSVP)

Adult's meal: sweet & spiced chicken, cous cous pilaf, kibbutz vegetable salad, pita, hummus, challah & honey cake

Children's meal: chicken strips, pita bread, challah, honey cake

Shabbat Services following: Shabbat Yachad 6:15 pm
Shabbat Renewal 6:00 pm

Your check is your registration. Please mail in check no later than May 9 with memo "Shabbat Dinner" to Tammy Friedman, Beth Yeshurun Synagogue, 4525 Beechnut, Houston, TX 77096

*Congregation Beth Yeshurun Sisterhood
Invites You to Join Us For Brunch*

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

At 10 o'clock a.m.

*Congregation Beth Yeshurun
Pulaski-Rauch Auditorium*

As We

Install our New Sisterhood Board

Honor Our Gift Shop Volunteers

*Honor our Sisterhood Needlepoint Artists of the Past
And their newly reframed Needlepoints*

RSVP by Monday, May 5th, with your \$18 check

Made Payable to:

Congregation Beth Yeshurun

4525 Beechnut Street

Houston, Texas 77096

Attn: Tammy Friedman/Sisterhood Brunch

■Healing the emotional wounds of divorce

Beth Yeshurun will be offering a series for anyone who has been divorced within the past 3 years. This series will be facilitated by Ken Kopel Ph.D, a clinical psychologist who has been practicing marriage and divorce counseling for over 35 years. There will be an organizational meeting on Monday evening, April 28 at 7:00 pm at Beth Yeshurun. You are invited to:

Join a Support Group

Learn new coping strategies

Meet people who understand what you are experiencing

Feel the comfort of others

Learn to deal more effectively with your children

Gain new perspectives on economic issues and on legal issues that confront divorcees

Learn to reach out to your friends and family and help them to understand what you need.

Those interested in participating are requested to register by calling Gayle Schnurr at 713-666-1881 ext. 317 by April 24.

This program is presented at no charge, being generously funded by the Martha Lea and Albert Stein Family Outreach Fund. The program is open to all members of the Jewish community.

You are invited to attend a community-wide

YOM HASHOAH SERVICE

Thursday, May 1, 2008 - 7 p.m.

Congregation Emanu El
1500 Sunset Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77005

Please join us in the observance of Yom HaShoah, a day of remembrance for the 6,000,000 Jewish people who lost their lives during the Holocaust. During this annual commemoration, we will pay our respects to those who perished, honor those who survived and pray for a future free of hatred and prejudice.



For more information, please call Tamara Savage:
713-942-8000, ext. 104 or e-mail tsavage@hnh.org.

Coordinated by the Yom HaShoah Steering Committee and Holocaust Museum Houston.

Funding for this service was generously provided by:
The Morgan Family Endowment Fund

Continental
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Official Airline of Holocaust Museum Houston

FAMILY ALBUM

■ Birth

Ariana Sophia Bell was born to proud parents Raana and Mark Bell on Mar. 12, 2008. She weighed eight pounds, eight ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. Ariana's elated grandparents are Ruth and George Burnazian of Houston and Maurice "Red" and Betty Bell of Montgomery, AL. She is named in loving memory of her great-grandmothers Ariana Burnazian and Sylvia Rosnick Stone.

■ Anniversaries

- 4/28 40 Perry and Bunny Radoff
- 4/29 7 Adam and Kimberly Siegel
- 52 Nathan and Lily Urman
- 4/30 9 Giancarlo and Debora Romero
- 46 Moisey and Liya Yoffe
- 5/2 9 Daniel and Robin Stein
- 43 Sol and Flora Wachsberg
- 4 Jonathan and Diane Wiener
- 5/3 16 Edward and Shelly Gardner

- 55 Tom and Kay Goldman
- 5/5 29 Harry and Teri Greenblatt
- 5/6 1 Robert and Beverly Pickelner
- 2 Brent and Sallye Wolf Wasserstein
- 17 Fred and Julie Wolgel
- 5/7 8 Todd and Michelle Gottesman
- 8 Fred and Nancy Stow
- 5/8 14 Nelson and Manizeh Mirza Gruber
- 4 Steven and Jill Newman
- 38 Ward and Ileene Robinson, II
- 5/9 10 Randy and Heather Reichstein
- 5/10 38 Thomas and Janet McCulloch

■ Condolences

The congregation extends its sincerest condolences to the families of --
 Reuben Caplan, Abram Frenkel, Bernice Goldberg, Michael Guttman, Rozelle "Dolly" Lipp, Lillian Rose Miller, Manet Schepps
May their memories be for a blessing.

■ BY in Israel@60 parade

On Sunday, Apr. 6, a group of enthusiastic congregants from Beth Yeshurun took part in the *Israel@60* parade.

Malka Gelrud Levy was able to capture this photo of some of the group. Malka said she "felt so proud to be Jewish and living in America and most proud to be a part of the Beth Yeshurun family."



The MESSAGE

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 Lester Rosen, YES Group Chair.....lirosen@aol.com

RABBI MORGEN SPEAKS FOR THE ENDOWMENT BOARD



Diane and I are very proud to serve the Beth Yeshurun community. Beth Yeshurun is a vibrant, exciting, and dynamic synagogue whose leadership is committed to strengthening Jewish family life and to supporting the Houston Jewish community as well as Jews across the United States, in Israel and other parts of the world. We therefore feel very strongly about the need for funds to help perpetuate this wonderful congregation for many generations to come. We have made

arrangements to make a significant contribution annually toward the Beth Yeshurun Endowment for precisely this reason.

We hope you will agree that Beth Yeshurun is a major center of informing, enhancing and enriching our Jewish community, "a place where spiritual values are applied to every facet of living and where we gain wisdom from the past to illuminate the future." Each generation has strived and contributed to strengthening our congregation. Now it is our turn to provide for the future. Through the Endowment Program, "we will be able to help provide a solid financial foundation for our congregation for years to come."

There are a variety of ways to contribute to the Endowment Program, particularly in connection with your estate planning. If you are considering giving to this program, please contact Mike Kashar, President, BY Endowment Board; Bubba Silberstein, Secretary, BY Endowment Board or Lu Dorfman, Executive Director, Beth Yeshurun.

Do you know someone hospitalized?

Due to privacy rules, hospitals are no longer able to provide Beth Yeshurun with a list of Jewish patients. *The only way we know if you or a relative or friend is in the hospital is if someone calls and informs us.* Unfortunately, if we are not informed, our rabbis do not visit. We are able to confirm if a patient is still hospitalized once we have the information.

Please contact us when you know one of our members is in the hospital - our rabbis are very dedicated to their hospital ministry and do not want to miss anyone. Please leave a message in person, by phone or e-mail, with Gayle Schnurr at (713) 666-1881, ext. 317 or GSCHNURR@BETHYESHURUN.ORG.

READING THE MEGILLAH AT CBY

Do you recognize anyone in these photos? Take a closer look!



WEEKDAY SERVICES IN THE J.B. GREENFIELD CHAPEL

Apr 27-May 2: Sun 8:30am (Pesach VIII-Yizkor), Mon-Fri 7am, Sun-Thu 7:45pm

Please note: Chapel services for April 29 & 30 were listed incorrectly in the BY calendar.

May 4-9: Sun 8am, Mon-Tue 6:45am (Rosh Chodesh) Wed (Yom Hazikaron),

Thu (Yom H'Atzmaut)-Fri 7am, Sun-Thu 7:45pm

Next Message Deadline:

Apr 29 for the May 25 issue

May 20 for the June 15 issue

Aug 1 for the mid-Aug issue

The Message is printed by Simon Printing