



From Our Rabbi...Eric Rosin

Perhaps the most precious element of the congregational rabbinate is the way congregants so graciously invite rabbis into their lives and the lives of their families. Jen and I have only been members of this community for six months and already I've come to know so many people so well. I've met with parents and children in preparation for b'nai mitzvah. I'm meeting with couples to help them shape their upcoming weddings and there is something both heart breaking and inspiring about the time that I've spent with families in mourning as I witness first hand how people support the ones they love in the most difficult of circumstances.

And those are only the red-letter, liminal moments that make it into photo albums and synagogue bulletins. There have also been discussions in my study and during kiddush luncheons, comments during Torah study on Shabbat morning, the banter before and after the weekday morning minyan, those moments in the hallways watching parents interact with their children on the way in or out of their religious school classrooms and even the profusion of committee and board meetings in which members of our kehilla share the important role that this community has played in their familial narratives.

The kindness and hospitality that you have extended to Jen and myself have been an entire post-ordination curriculum of what it means to find meaning in everyday life. The kindness of my previous congregations also made the many years before I met Jen that much easier. I didn't have much of my family around, but I was *almost* family to so many wonderful households.

The lessons that I've learned from the families in my communities have helped to shape the aspirations I have for my relationship with Jen and the household that we are establishing. And now, as if we haven't gone through enough personal and professional transi-

tions in the last year, it is with great joy and a touch of nervousness that we announce that, God willing, we are expecting to have a child over the summer.

On the one hand, all of the time we have spent with your families has made us even more excited to be starting this family of our own. I love the time that I spend in the preschool and religious school classrooms and no element of my rabbinate has been more rewarding than watching children grow up into young men and women. In my last congregation, I was privileged to help boys and girls whom I met as toddlers prepare for their b'nai mitzvah, and I was able to congratulate students whom I had met as middle schoolers as they finished high school, college and even got married. It is overwhelming to think that now Jen and I will hopefully be blessed with the opportunity to walk our own child through all of these pivotal moments.

I've been learning and teaching about Jewish children, Jewish families and all of the life cycle events since my ordination. Now we will have the opportunity to put all of those lessons to the test and to experience first hand all of the challenges and accomplishments that, until now, I have only known vicariously as I served the families of others.

Of course this is as daunting as it is wonderful. Jen and I have paused more than once to acknowledge how intimidating it is to accept the responsibility to do this work for ourselves and our own family. We know how important and how challenging it can be to be a parent and we pray that we will be equal to the task.

So, with boundless gratitude (and a touch of apprehension), we look forward to adding one more member to the Neve Shalom community and we look forward to all of the learning and loving and feeling our way forward that will be part of the process of raising a family of our own.

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Notes from the Hazzan

By Hazzan Sheldon Levin

A Spectacular Sabbatical

You may have noticed that I missed a few Saturdays at the end of December and early January. This time was part of a “sabbatical” which has enabled me to study, learn and try new things and to bring these ideas back to Neve Shalom. In a future bulletin, I will share information about some of the educational venues I attended. I spent the three Shabbatot at very different prayer experiences looking for things that might invigorate our own worship services. In Jerusalem, I prayed at Kol Haneshama when I first arrived. This is a “Progressive,” independent shul led by **Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman**. They have their own prayer book which they created and is based on a Reform siddur. They do not use instruments but especially, on Friday nights, they attract a lot of tourists and, that week, young Birthright visitors. There is lots of singing and melodies, some of which we often use here at Neve Shalom. The Friday night service is longer than ours, though their Shabbat morning service is shorter. There was no sermon, no Musaf and a very abbreviated introductory service (P’sukei D’zimra).

The second Shabbat I went to an egalitarian, Orthodox synagogue called Shira Hadasha, a new song. This community, in the German Colony of Jerusalem, has no official rabbi or cantor. All decisions are made by a Vaad, a committee, of leaders. There is a mechitza (a curtain) down the center of the sanctuary. Men sit on the left, women sit on the right. Both men and women take turns leading sections of the service and reading Torah. During “speaking” parts, such as the d’var Torah and announcements, they quickly slide the dividing curtain away and just as quickly slide it back when the prayers start again. The singing is very lively, with lots of participation and harmonies sung by the members. They repeat both the Shacharit and Musaf Amidah prayers, they do not skip any of the texts of the Orthodox siddurim they use. They chant the complete Torah reading and Haftarah. The Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat tunes would be very familiar to many of our USYers who sing them at encampments and conventions. Shabbat morning included some melodies which were easy to sing, but new to me, that I hope we can introduce at Neve Shalom in the future.

The third week, I was in Los Angeles (I was on the West Coast for a Cantors Conference) so I attended Ikar. Ikar, is an independent community, not affiliated with a movement, though they use the Conservative prayer book. Their rabbi, **Sharon Brouse**, is regularly listed as one of the leading, young rabbis of America. She spoke of their social action programs. Their cantor, **Hillel Tigay**, who was a student of mine at Solomon Schechter in Philadelphia and at Camp Ramah in the Poconos, has created an interesting, eclectic mix of Jewish melodies and congregational participation. The services include several drummers and professional singers who add rhythm and harmony to the cantor’s tunes. Everyone is urged to sing along. There are many young people in their 20’s and 30’s and lots of energy. After *L’cha Dodi*, on Friday night, there was 10 minutes of dancing. Throughout the services there is a lot of hand clapping and drumming. Some of the tunes are by **Shlomo Carlebach** but others come from the Jewish Renewal Movement or were created by the cantor.

While it was enlightening and fascinating to see these three congregations, and to also hear many new melodies at the West Coast Cantors Conference, I am happy to be back at Neve Shalom. We can be proud of our participation and of how many of our members regularly attend services and participate with Torah reading, service leading and regular singing. I hope to add new melodies judiciously. We have a wonderful community in Central New Jersey that has so much to offer and I am very glad to be part of this great congregation.



Rabbi Weiman-Kelman & Kol Haneshama

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BULLETIN DEADLINES

- May Issue — March 20
- June Issue — April 20
- September Issue—July 20

Submit your articles and graphics for publication to
 Rita Devlin via e-mail at
office@neveshalom.net

IN MEMORIAM



Edna Johnson,
 Mother of Chris Becker

Claire Meadow
 Sister of Herbert Samuelson

Jerry Gunsher
 Our member

Muriel Sherman
 Mother of Michael Sherman

Ritually Speaking

By Christina Daniels, Vice President, Ritual Committee

Today I write to you after hearing that three winning tickets have been drawn in the earth-shatteringly large Powerball lottery: a fortune greater than most countries' GDPs. Since I have lottery on the mind, I thought I would talk a little about the lottery in Jewish history.



By the time you read this, we will be approaching the crazy holiday of Purim. Purim often seems like a holiday out of context with the rest of Judaism with its craziness and costumes and partying. Interestingly, it is linked with some very important and serious holidays in our liturgical calendar, providing both complement and contrast.

The holiday of Purim usually occurs exactly one month before Pesach (except for this year – which is leap year, so we get an extra month of Adar!). It heralds the approach of a key holiday for our people and our religion. For one thing, it reminds us to *start cleaning now*; there is only one month left! It is also the introduction to our freedom story. In each story, a Jew chosen from the people, representing the Jewish people approaches a king of a foreign country to ask for the release of the Jewish people from a hard fate. In the 'non-religious' story (the Megillah never once mentions God), Esther presents herself to King Achashverosh in Babylonia to ask for lives of the Jewish people to be saved from the edicts of the evil Haman. One month later, we celebrate Moses appearing before Pharaoh in Egypt to request the freedom of the Jewish people from slavery and oppression. The Megillah becomes a warm-up to our main act: freedom not just to live, but to live with God's blessing and commandments.

Oh, but back to the lottery – of course, we all learned that 'pur' was Persian for 'lot' and that Haman chose the date for Jewish obliteration by drawing lots. Nearly halfway across our calendar we have a very different lottery holiday. Yom Kippur (see the 'pur?') has us observing a spiritual lottery, fasting and praying that God will re-

deem our souls. In fact, the Zohar indicates that Yom HaKippurim (as the Torah refers to it) means "Day that is like Purim" (yom ha k'purim). But how can these two be related when they are so different? Each holiday is filled with extremes. Yom Kippur requires complete abstinence from worldly and physical pleasures like food, water, bathing and sex. It focuses on our spiritual health. Purim insists that we feast and indulge and drink. All events in this story occur naturally, due to beauty or happenstance, being in the right place at the right time. Either way the results can seem random, but I prefer to see it as God meeting us where we are – which is usually somewhere in the middle.

So what do we need to do to celebrate Purim correctly?

Only four things:

1. Listen to the whole Megillah – fortunately at Neve Shalom we have a Megillah reading every year. Come join us on Wednesday, March 23 – it's great fun!
2. Matanot La'Evyonim (Give to the needy) – a little tzedakah is always a good thing!
3. Mishloach Manot (Send food gifts to friends) – at Neve Shalom, we can help with this too! There are special rules about exactly what types of things must go in a basket, but fortunately, we offer them here to send to all your friends. Do a mitzvah *and* support your shul all at once!
4. Feast!!! Who can say no to this commandment?

Remember: this holiday is about fun and parody, hidden meaning and the physical world, but it is also about God looking after us, even when at first it appears that God is not there.

Chag Purim Sameach!

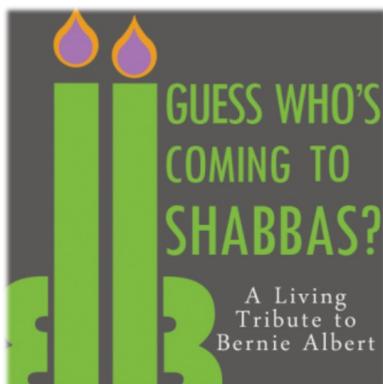


**COMING UP
ON
MARCH 25!**

"A new initiative strengthening communities and creating meaningful memories one Shabbat dinner at a time."

Neve Shalom will be joining synagogues from across the country whose members, friends and family participate in this exciting "pay-it-forward" Shabbat dinner your own way. On specified Friday nights, host a dinner, attend a dinner and celebrate at Shabbat services Saturday morning, where all who participated the night before will have a special communal honor.

For more information and to volunteer as a host, call **Jennifer Bullcock** at 908-510-4005 or **Julie Hersch** at 732-494-3439/732-742-8613.





Adult Ed News

By Hazzan Sheldon Levin



Hebrew School News

By Hazzan Sheldon Levin

SCHOLAR EVENT

For the first annual Rabbi Gerald L. Zelizer Scholar Event, we are very excited to present **Dr. Arnold Eisen**, the Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary. Dr. Eisen will be speaking on Tuesday, March 15 at 7:00 pm about "The Exciting Future of Judaism in America." As the Chancellor of JTS, he is in a leadership position of Conservative Judaism with tremendous impact on future rabbis, cantors, educators and scholars.

Dr. Eisen is one of the world's leading authorities on American Judaism. One of his books *Rethinking Modern Judaism: Ritual, Commandment, Community* is an important text. He sits on the boards of a number of major Jewish organizations and is an outstanding scholar and speaker. Thanks to our benefactors (list in formation): **Amy and Ira Artman, Ken and Carol Bernstein, Flora Cowen, Lena Feld, Sandy Fields, Joy and Sam Grafton, Gerald and Rhoda Grossman, Gilbert and Claudie Hayat, Robert and Sandra Moss, Marvin Rubinstein, Edna Sherber, Nancy and Stuart Shlossman, Barbara and Eliot Spack.** There is no admission fee for this event. Refreshments will be served. Please invite your friends from other congregations to this major talk by one of America's most influential Jewish leaders.

Friday, March 4

The Hebrew School Family Dinner at 5:30 pm. \$5 feeds up to two people and \$10 feeds three or more in a family. Additional donations are welcome to help defray the costs. The Family Service, which begins at 6:30 pm, will be led by **Rabbi Rosin, Hazzan Levin** and our Hebrew School students.

Saturday, March 12

The 5th, 6th and 7th grades will help lead parts of the service in the sanctuary. All of the students and parents are invited as well as the entire congregation. At noon we will host Shabbat Kef (fun) for children in grades 2-7.

Sunday, March 20

The Purim Carnival, which we co-sponsor, will begin at the JCC at 11:00 am. Hebrew School will end at 10:45 am so we all can get to the Carnival. We need teen and adult volunteers to run tables, set-up on Friday and early Sunday morning and clean-up after the Carnival and on Monday morning. Please contact **Jennine Shpigel** at 732-494-3232, ext. 3621 to volunteer. The games are all free and kosher lunch will be sold.

Wednesday, March 23

At 7:00 pm the Family Megillah reading chanted by our teens, then at 8:00 pm the Hebrew School Lion King Purim Shpiel will take place. At 8:15 pm the Adult Megillah Reading (the complete text) will be chanted. Free hamantaschen for all. Bring noise makers, costumes and have a great time! Don't miss the fun!



Sunday, March 27

The Tenement Museum Trip leaves Neve Shalom at 8:45 am and returns at 12:30 pm. Space on the bus is limited so please make your reservations early. RSVP online at <http://neveshalom.shulcloud.com/event/MuseumTrip2016> (There is school for any children who do not go on the trip.)

There is no Hebrew School Tuesday, March 29 unless we need to use it as a make-up snow day.

Community Stars



On January 24 at the JEA (Jewish Educators Assembly) annual conference held in Mt. Laurel, NJ **Joshua Ull** was honored along with 22 other young leaders as a way of recognizing the next generation of Jewish leaders. Josh was a Neve Shalom USY President, a Hagalil Regional President and also the International USY President.



Rabbi Philip Warmflash, a former teacher at Neve Shalom, received the JEA Etz Chayim Award at the JEA Conference. Rabbi Warmflash currently serves as the founding Executive Director of Jewish Learning Venture in Philadelphia. **CONGRATULATIONS!!!**



Israeli Cooking Demonstration
 April 7, 2016 at 7:00 pm
 at Neve Shalom

This event, sponsored by the Israel Awareness Committee and the Neve Shalom Sisterhood will include some popular Israeli dishes demonstrated by The Orchid.....and of course, there will be sampling!! The cost is \$7.50 per person. RSVP by April 4, 2016. Contact **Linda Gotlib** at lgotlib@verizon.net with questions. Space is limited. Reserve early!



*Dream Weavers in the
Neve Shalom Loom Room*

"I was so happy to be able to make my own tallis. It meant a lot to me because I was able to do this with my mom. Best experience of my life and will cherish it always." **Ilana Stein** (pictured below with mom **Michelle Stein**)

Wonderful experiences happen in the Neve Shalom Sisterhood Loom Room! To schedule your time on the loom to weave a tallit, tallit bag or challah cover contact **Cory Schneider** at 717-574-1807; email: corstan65@gmail.com or **Jennifer Bullock** at 732-906-8565; rnjbullock@aol.com.



**A NEW NEVE SHALOM
CONSTITUTION
IS COMING**

Neve Shalom operates under a constitution that was last overhauled in the early 1990s, nearly 25 years ago. Since then, the congregation has undergone many changes, and the world around us is very different.

As a result, in late 2014, the Constitution Committee was asked to review the current constitution and recommend any necessary changes. We have met diligently since then and have analyzed every aspect of the current constitution. We have also reviewed other constitutions in order to get the latest and best thinking about what has been done elsewhere.

After this lengthy and detailed study, the Constitution Committee is prepared to present a new constitution for adoption by the Congregation. Many things will remain the same, but some things will be different. We believe that the proposed new constitution will allow Neve Shalom to run better and more efficiently as we move into the future.

We currently anticipate that there will be a special meeting of the Congregation at which the proposed new constitution will be presented for a vote. That meeting is likely to occur in later March or early April. Congregants will be notified of the specific date, and will receive a copy of the proposed constitution in advance. That will likely be accompanied by a summary of major changes from the current constitution and reasons for those changes.

The Constitution Committee has worked hard to produce this proposed new constitution. We look forward to presenting it to the Congregation.

—the Neve Shalom Constitution Committee



Kadima had a blast at the beginning of February making their own pizzas at Jerusalem Pizza. They then enjoyed Kindergarten Night with USY where they enjoyed all the fun activities they haven't done since Kindergarten. We ended the month with a regional basketball tournament and an Unbirthday Party where they enjoyed cakey foods and a grab bag! In March we are looking forward to regional events: Kadima Day and 8th Grade Shabbaton. Back at the synagogue we will be doing a synagogue scavenger hunt and a Purim celebration. Hope to see you there! — Penina Mark

Sisterhood



Sunday, March 6, 2016
Sisterhood Chai Tea
June 2016
Garden State Region Women's
League Regional Honoring Event

Men's Club Minute

By Steven Schneider, Men's Club President



It was hard to contain the love and respect for **Jeffrey Schulman** expressed on the refreshingly frosty morning of Sunday, January 17. A hundred men and women gathered in the ballroom of Neve Shalom to honor Mr. Schulman as the honoree at the 2016 Men's Club Founder's Day Breakfast. This is an annual event where a founder and pioneer of the Men's Club is put upon a pedestal in order to highlight their hard work and dedication to the Men's Club and its virtues.

The event began with a few words of welcome by the event's chairman, **Matthew Bonus**, followed by a lesson on the proper procedure for preparing a cup of Irish coffee (using Jeff as the demonstratee). A gourmet meal prepared by the now famous Men's Club Kitchen Crew was served. The meal, orchestrated by **Chef Lon** and **Chef Keith Boxer**, included: four mouth-watering variations of egg platters (the scrambler, SOP, vegetable delight, and *oeuf spéciale*); seasoned potato wedges with an amazing whiskey sauce; and freshly-made biscuits with a choice of either plain gravy or southern gravy. Also, as mentioned, Irish coffee was available amongst a bevy of other beverages.

Once the hunger of the crowd was satiated, the spotlight turned to the MC of the morning, **David Yellin**, who provided some wonderful comments regarding Jeff and his own history with Jeff in revitalizing Men's Club. He spoke of Jeff's dedication to Neve Shalom and the community. **Steve Schneider**, the current President of our Men's Club said a few words about Jeff and his great work, as well as told the audience of some of the upcoming Men's Club events. **Dave Mandell**, Treasurer of the FJMC then spoke of Jeff's work, dedication, and friendship on a regional, national, and international level. Jeff's daughters **Haley** and **Whitney** provided some very sweet heart-felt sentiments about their dad. Finally, Jeff Schulman took center stage and not only talked about his involvement in the Men's Club and the many things he accomplished, but also how rewarding being involved has been.

The festivities did not end there. Dessert was then served, featuring freshly baked peach cobbler (by Chef **David Leichter**), and an assortment of cookies. It was an amazing event for both those that attended and for Jeff Schulman, who more than deserved the honor.



Join us in the Sanctuary
at Neve Shalom as the
5th, 6th & 7th grades participate in the
SATURDAY MORNING
SERVICE
Mar. 12 10:15-noon
For students grades 5-7 & their families
Contact Hazzan Levin for more info

SHABBAT KEF
(After Shul Fun)
Noon—2 pm
Lunch and LOTS of FUN
Grades 2-7



Neve Shalom invites you to
MULTIPLE MINYANIM

Sat., Mar 5, 2016 9:30 a.m.—10:15 a.m.

During the Shabbat morning service, several options will be offered throughout the building including

- ★ The Regular Service *starts 9:30am*



- ★ Eit Ratzon: Moments of meaning and prayer led by Rabbi Eric Rosin
Special time for Rabbi's class 9:30 a.m.—10:15 a.m.

All will join together for *Torah Service*
and *Kiddush*.



Rutgers Group Tours Israel for “Social Work” Perspective

By Elizabeth Binstein

Exactly one year ago, I returned from a life-changing journey to Poland to bear witness to the horrors of the Holocaust. I walked away from the death camps with a renewed thirst for life. I vowed to remain grateful and to dedicate myself to making sure that others were able to live their lives to the fullest.

Today, I return from Israel, a holy land with vibrant and diverse citizens who co-exist with neighbors of different religious beliefs and backgrounds. My trip to Israel through the Rutgers University School of Social Work has given me a global education on how to best serve individuals of different cultures while rejuvenating my love for the career.

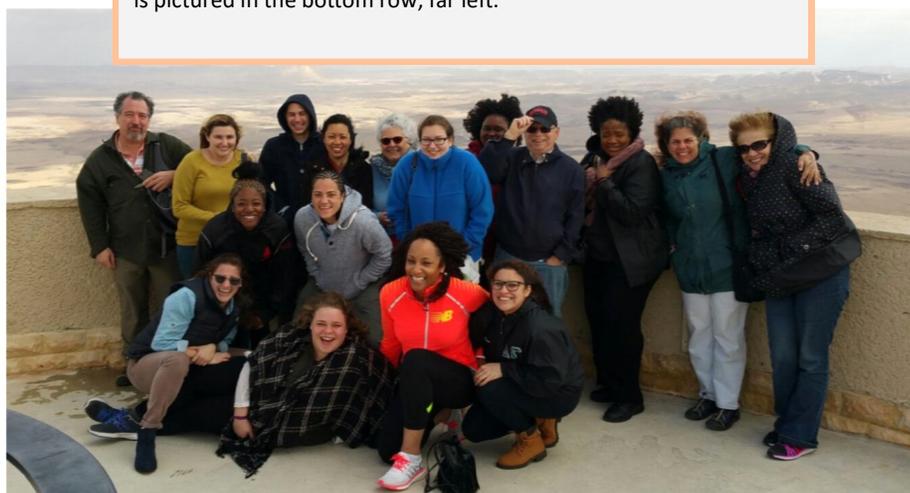
The itinerary for this trip included visits to various universities, exposure to different religions and ways of life, tours of agencies for the developmentally disabled and opportunities to speak one-on-one with disadvantaged individuals.

The purpose of visiting several universities in Israel was to gain a sense of higher education within the social work field. We were able to meet with professors and students, and achieve an understanding of the equivalences and disparities of social work programs within Israel and the United States. I really valued the opportunity to meet with and connect to Israeli social work students as it gave us an honest chance to discuss pros and cons of our government systems and network across continents.

Another aspect of the trip which helped me to grow as a professional and individual was the opportunity to spend time with and learn about different religions, cultures, and ways of life. While we focused on Judaism, Christianity and Islam, we were also given the chance to learn about the Baha'i and Druze ways of life. We visited the Baha'i World Center in Haifa and spoke with a follower of the faith. In addition, we visited a Druze village and were given the opportunity to listen and ask questions of a member of the community. Gaining exposure to these faiths and having the chance to see the diversity of life in Israel has given me the ability to appreciate others' belief systems. These traits will undoubtedly help me in both my day-to-day life and career.

During the course of our time in Israel, we visited several agencies which focused on the developmentally disabled. I found this part of the trip to be particularly inspiring as I

Rutgers University School of Social Work group in Israel. Elizabeth is pictured in the bottom row, far left.



work with individuals with special needs and conduct autism research at Rutgers University. The agencies we visited were state of the art and were comprised of passionate and kind employees. These facilities continually develop new ways to assist their clients in becoming as independent as possible, or increasing and maintaining their quality of life. During the tour of one agency, we were told that they have an ongoing relationship with the engineers of the Iron Dome. This agency contacts the engineers when they find that they have a need for an item not yet created, such as specific sensory gardens or merry-go-rounds with wheel-chair access, and they create it for them. Israel's commitment and creativity in assisting every type of citizen is inspiring.

Lastly, we heard from individuals within the country who felt that their needs were not being met. We spoke with three Ethiopian immigrants who told us about their journey to Israel and their feelings about Israel's lack of commitment to their communities. We asked them, as social workers ourselves, how we could better assist them or other clients in similar positions in the United States. We were told that it is never helpful to tell someone else what they need, we must instead ask "what is it that you need?" We cannot assume that we know what is best, we need to ask,

listen, and learn. This is a lesson that will remain with me throughout my career.

My study abroad experience was exponentially improved by my travel cohort. The diversity within our group added to our discussions and my comprehension of the material. I am grateful to have had the chance to travel and view Israel through the many professional and life experience lenses of my peers. It is unique to be able to travel with undergraduate students and graduate students, in different walks of life, with differing passions.

Israel is a historically rich country with holy sites belonging to different religions and a home to a melting pot of cultures and peoples. It is a home to many, a source of passion and belief to others, and a continually evolving welfare state. I am beyond grateful to have been given the chance to experience this firsthand. Thanks to the Susy Schwartz Memorial Scholarship Fund for helping make this opportunity a reality for me.





CHICKPEAS FOR PURIM

By Chef Lon

do not think it is a coincidence that International Women's Day occurs during the same time as the Jewish holiday that is most closely associated with a strong female leader. The holiday of Purim celebrates a rags to riches story of a beautiful young Jewish woman named Esther who rose to the position of Queen, and due to her bravery and cunning, saved all the Jews in Persia from genocide. Although Esther is best known for foiling the plans of Haman, she is also known for adherence to her faith. While living in the royal court, to keep kosher (and not disclose that she was Jewish), she dined on beans and chickpeas for most of her meals. While hamantaschen are the food most associated with celebrating Purim, beans and chickpeas are also associated with the holiday.

Story of Esther

I am going to provide you with the (very) short story of Esther (found in the *Megillah*). Esther became the bride of the King Achashverosh. She had to hide her Jewish faith, but to keep kosher, she only ate chickpeas and beans instead of meat. The Prime Minister, Haman, became angry at her uncle (Mordecai), and ordered every Jew in Persia to be exterminated. The day was selected by choosing lots ("lot" in Hebrew is *purim*). She hosted a feast inviting both Haman and the King. During the meal she asked why Haman was going to kill her. She then confessed to being a Jew. The king got angry, and although he could not stop the order, he decreed that the Jews should protect themselves, and also ordered Haman hanged. It took two days for the Jewish people to defeat Haman's followers.

Beans and Chickpeas

In order to follow her Jewish beliefs, she had to feign being a vegetarian in order to avoid non-kosher meats. In remembrance of her religious devotion, beans and chickpeas are foods associated with celebrating the holiday of Purim. Beans and chickpeas (also called garbanzo beans) are plants that are both legumes. Beans have been cultivated for eons, and are one of the longest cultivated plants known to man. There is evidence of beans being cultivated as far back as 7000 BCE.

Evidence of beans being domesticated by 2000 BCE were discovered in Peru. Although there are only a few varieties of beans mass produced for mass consumption, there are almost 40,000 varieties of beans in the world.

Hummus and Falafel

Hummus, which is primarily made of chickpeas, may be one of the first foods to have ever been prepared. Although the true origins of this dish is hard to establish, it is fair to say that our early ancestors picked the chickpeas from its plant, and may have mashed the beans up and possibly added a spice to it; an easy dish that was made with an abundant food.

Another dish which contains chickpeas as its main ingredient is falafel. Falafel is a dish where chickpeas are boiled, crushed, spiced, and molded into patties (or little balls), then cooked. It may have been originated in Egypt during the early reign of the Pharaohs. The name may have been derived from the Egyptian word for spicy, *mefefel*. One thought is that it did originate near the port of Alexandria, and spread to other areas around the Mediterranean Sea. However, the chickpea was so common in the region it could have originated almost anywhere. The falafel was originally served/eaten solo, or placed in salad. During the mid 20th century Yemenite immigrants in Israel began opening up small shops selling falafel in pita as a street food; the idea took off and has become a national food now enjoyed around the globe.

Now, when you imagine Esther sitting at the Royal table, hopefully you no longer picture her with a pile of beans and chickpeas set out on a plate before her. The palace chefs most likely prepared dishes containing these ingredients, but transformed them into something palatable such as a hummus or falafel.

International Women's Day

The official website for International Women's Day (IWD) states that its purpose is to "Celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievement of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity." The year associated with the holiday's beginning is 1909, when 15,000 women marched in NYC in remembrance of the ILGWU strike a year earlier. On March, 19, 1911, over one million women celebrated

IWD. Today, the holiday is officially recognized and celebrated in many of countries all over the world.

Esther is the heroin of the Purim story, but there are many other female leaders throughout the history of the Jewish People.

To celebrate International Woman's Day this month, you may want to honor other strong female Jewish leaders by doing research and reading about them. You may want to discover more about the matriarchs (Sarah, Rebecca, Leah, and Rachel), other famous leaders such as Judith or Miriam. However, you may find it interesting to find out about some of the other lesser known women, such as Deborah, Huldah, or Queen Salome Alexandria.

Summary

As you have read, the chickpea, although small in stature, holds a large place in Jewish laws and customs. Like the chickpea, Jewish women, who may not always be large in physical stature, have shown great power of intelligence, wisdom, and moral fortitude to overcome even the greatest of enemies.

[For an unabridged version of this article, please visit <http://foodhistoryreligion.wordpress.com/>]

THE RECIPE

For this month, let's do a simple chickpea salad that not only tastes great, but does not require any cooking.

Ingredients

1 lb. chickpeas
 1 small tomato, finely chopped
 1 small onion, finely chopped
 1 small red bell pepper, finely chopped
 1 Tbs red wine vinegar
 3 Tbs olive oil
 1 clove garlic (minced)
 Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

Add all of the above ingredients into a bowl, mix, then add salt and pepper to taste.

Keep Cookin' — Chef Lon

**Congregation Neve Shalom's
Susy Schwartz Memorial Scholarship Fund Benefit Concert
invites you to a joyous evening with**

Safam

the Jewish-American Sound

**Sunday,
April 3, 2016
6:30 PM**

Safam is renowned not only for its highly regarded recordings, but is equally acclaimed for its **inspirational** and **entertaining** concerts. Through its **music, humor, passion** and **sensitivity**, Safam instills in its audiences a sense of **pride** about being **Jewish** in America.



26th Annual Susy Schwartz Memorial Scholarship Fund Benefit Concert
Proceeds from this concert help our young people benefit from an educational experience in Israel.

ADMISSION
GENERAL
\$25 in advance | \$30 at the door
Under 12 yrs: \$12
BENEFACTORS \$200 | PATRONS \$100
Both enjoy preferred seating & more

FREE BABYSITTING
Free babysitting for ages 3 to 8 available to parents while attending the show.
Must register by March 28th.

**250 GROVE AVENUE,
METUCHEN, NJ 08840
732-548-2238, EXT. 18**

**PURCHASE TICKETS AT
WWW.NEVESHALOM.NET**

- YES, I plan to attend the Susy Schwartz Memorial Concert** on Sunday, April 3, 2016.
 - Benefactor** - \$200 (Entitled to 2 tickets, preferred seating, gift, name listed in program, extra adult tickets @ \$25 and child tickets @ \$12 each with preferred seating).
 - Patron** - \$100 (Entitled to 2 tickets, preferred seating, name listed in program, extra adult tickets @ \$25 and child tickets @ \$12 each with preferred seating).
- For Benefactors and Patrons:
___ extra adult and ___ extra child tickets
- General Admission:**
___ adult tickets @ \$25 ___ child tickets @ \$12
 - NO, I am unable to attend, but here is my contribution to the Fund.**

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Number of children who will be using babysitting _____

**Make all checks payable to:
"Neve Shalom - SSMF" and mail to:
Neve Shalom, 250 Grove Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840**



We Gratefully Acknowledge
and thank the following generous contributors to our funds:

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YOUTH GROUP FUND

IN MEMORY OF.....FROM
 Edna Johnson Stacey Sern and Jonathan Greenberg

Neve Shalom would like to thank the following people for chanting Torah during the month of January T=Teen, JR=Junior

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 Jake Bullock3
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 Lawrence Dombrow1
 Marlene Fineman1
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 Karen Weinstein 1
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 Daniel Rushefsky
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Ashrei
 Shaina Garb JR



Del and Barbara Du-Bois
 on the birth of their
 grandson
Davin Ryan Du-Bois.



The Rabbi Gerald L. Zelizer
SCHOLAR EVENT
Tuesday, Mar. 15, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Dr. Arnold Eisen
Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary

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Free and Open to the Public

Refreshments will be served.
 If you can be a benefactor for this event
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Hazzan@NeveShalom.net
 732-548-2238x14



Neve Shalom

**Know someone who needs help?
 Don't Keep It Under Your Hat!**

Know someone in need of help during an illness,
 after surgery, after the birth of a child, please
 contact the **Mitzvah Mission**.
No Mission Is Impossible!
tikkunolam@neveshalom.net
 732-858-1764

Community Conversations Continue!

Your valuable feedback continues to help shape our future. To host or to participate, please contact either **Nancy Shlossman** at nshloss@aol.com or at 732-321-4081, or **Debbie Schildkraut** at dkestins@gmail.com, or at 732-549-7224.




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Got Simcha?
 Share your Simcha with the Entire Neve Community!

Community Kiddush Fund

Mazel Tov Sponsorship - \$500
 The most popular sponsorship! Includes everything in a regular Kiddush with lots of extras. You'll be listed prominently in the *Shabbat Shalom* and get lots of Mazel Tov's from the community.

L'Chaim Sponsorship - \$250
 A great option for all of life's Simchas! This sponsorship is like a standard Kiddush on steroids. You'll be listed prominently in the *Shabbat Shalom* and thanked by everyone in the congregation.

Simcha Donation - \$18 multiples
 Sharing a Simcha is what builds our community. Support the weekly Kiddush and let everyone know about the good things in your life.

Please contact Rita in the office at (732) 548-2238 or
 Email at office@neveshalom.net
 Visit www.NeveShalom.net • Click on **Community Kiddush Fund**



Neve Shalom Nursery School
 250 Grove Avenue
 Metuchen, NJ 08840
 (732) 548-2238 ext 17
 nurseryschool@neveshalom.net

“My Jewish Journey”

Come join us for a very special Jewish learning experience for you and your preschool aged child (ages 3 – 5). Starting in October 2015, each month there will be a one hour program on a Sunday morning designed specifically for young Jewish families to learn, interact, and create together!

We will explore Jewish holidays and values through art, music, cooking, storytelling, games, and activities designed specifically for you and your preschool aged child.

There will be eight sessions on the following Sunday mornings from 11 am – 12pm.

October 18th	November 15th	December 13th	January 10th
February 7th	March 13th	April 10th	May 8th

The cost will be subsidized so that each family pays only \$36 for the entire nine sessions! **Even if you are joining us after the first session, please “jump in” at any time, we can pro-rate your cost!**

Please contact Martha Mack, Nursery School Director at (732) 548-2238 ext 17 or nurseryschool@neveshalom.net if you any additional questions or to sign up your family today!

“My Jewish Journey” – Neve Shalom Nursery School

Parent’s Name(s): _____ Child’s Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Please return bottom of form to Neve Shalom Nursery School and include payment of \$36.



Neve Shalom trip to the
TENEMENT MUSEUM

Lower East Side, NY

Sunday, Mar. 27, 2016

Trip leaves Neve Shalom at 8:45 am &
returns at approximately 12:30 pm

(Seats are limited RSVP early)



For grades K-7

(there is school for any children not going on the trip.)

Costs: **\$20 per person** including bus & museum admission

Parents are welcome

We will be going by bus. For more information contact Hazzan Levin
732-548-2238x14 or Hazzan@NeveShalom.net

My child (ren) _____ has/have

permission to attend the Tenement Museum trip on Mar. 27, 2016.

My cell phone if you need to call me _____.

_____ I/we will also be attending the trip (Parent(s) name) _____

Cost: **\$20 per person.**

Amount paid \$ _____

checks payable to Neve Shalom

Parent's signature _____

Please return this form to Jeanne Cowhey (School secretary) by Mar 6

Hebrewschool@NeveShalom.net






Neve Shalom's Hebrew School
invites you to

Dinner before Family Services

Friday, Mar 4– dinner 5:30 pm, services 6:30 pm

\$5 for 1 or 2 people, \$10 for 3 or more

Register by contacting Jeanne Cowhey in the office.

Feel free for adults to bring your own wine to dinner.



Neve Shalom



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7 pm
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Songs, Prizes,
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LOTS OF NOISE
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8pm
- Wed Evening,
Mar 23, 2016
8:15 pm
Complete Megillah Reading
For Adults



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Purim Shpiel

Wednesday,
Mar. 23, 2016
8pm

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Saturday, March 26 at 8:00 pm  Neve Shalom



End Shabbat with candles and spice.
Sing a great song - that will be nice
Invite your friends. Hope you are able.
You bring the game. We've got the table

Cost for the evening is \$10/person
Desserts and Coffee will be served. BYOB

Register
<http://neveshalom.shulcloud.com/event/mar-26-havdalah-and-karaoke.html>
or
send your check payable to
Congregation Neve Shalom, 250 Grove Ave., Metuchen, NJ 08846

For questions, please contact
Wendy Kushner at whkushner@gmail.com
Audrey Napchen at Audrey.napchen@gmail.com

**Neve Shalom invites you to
MULTIPLE MINYANS**
Sat., Apr. 2, 2016 10:15-11:30 a.m.

During the Shabbat morning service, several options will be offered throughout the building including

- ★ The Regular Service *starts 9:30am*
- ★ A Torah Study Session led by Stephan Gross
- ★ A Deeper Dive Into Davening led by Jonathan Greenberg

All will join together for *Musaf* and *Kiddush*.



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at the
JCC OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY
 1775 Oak Tree Rd., Edison
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 Two prize tickets if you come in costume!*

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March 2016/Adar 1-Adar 2 5776

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HAPPY PURIM 		1 Ritual Comm 7:30 pm Finance Comm 7:30 pm	2 Kadima/USY Basketball 6:30/7:30 pm	3 Men's Club 7:30 pm	4 Candles 5:35 pm Family dinner 5:30 pm Traditional and Family Services 6:30 pm	5 VaYakhel Shabbat Shekalim Multiple Minyanim Mincha/Maariv 5 pm
6 Youth Learning Team 9 am Rabbi's class 10 am Midrasha 11 am Hanoar 12 pm	7 USY, Sisterhood Pizza Beer and Torah all at 7:30 pm	8	9 Kadima/USY Basketball 6:30/7:30 pm Membership Comm 7:30 pm	10 Rosh Chodesh Fundraising Comm 7:30 pm	11 Rosh Chodesh Candles 5:42 pm Services 6:30 pm	12 Pekudei 5 th , 6 th , 7 th Grade Service 9:30 am Shabbat Kef 12 pm Mincha/Maariv 5:15 pm
13 Daylight Savings Time Library Comm 9 am Rabbi's Class 10 am Hazzan's Class 11 am Jewish Journeys 11 am Hanoar 12 pm	14 Kadima 7:30 pm Pizza, Beer and Torah 7:30 pm	15 Scholar Event Dr. Arnold Eisen 7:30 pm	16 55 Plus Group 1 pm Kadima/USY Basketball 6:30/7:30 pm	17 Youth Comm 7:30 pm	18 Candles 6:50 pm Services 6:30 pm Hadassah Shabbat	19 Vayikra Shabbat Zachor Mincha/Maariv 6:15 pm Purim Packing 7:50 pm
20 Blood drive 8 am Rabbi's Class 10 am Purim Carnival 11 am-2 pm	21 Kadima and USY 7:30 pm Pizza, Beer and Torah 7:30 pm	22 Colonia Hadassah 12 pm House Comm 7 pm Synagogue Board 7:30 pm	23 Fast of Esther Erev Purim Family Service 7 pm Lion King Purim Shpiel 8 pm Adult Service 8:15 pm	24 Purim	25 Shushan Purim Candles 6:57 pm Services 6:30 pm	26 Vayechi Mincha/Maariv 6:30 pm
27 Hebrew School Trip 8:45 am Hearing Men's Voices: Financial Issues with Ross Arnel 10 am	28 Pizza, Beer and Torah 7:30 pm	29 No Hebrew School	30	31	Service Times Shabbat morning 9:30 am Children's Service 10:15 am Morning Minyan Sundays 9:00 am Monday and Thursday 6:45 am Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 am Fast of Esther 6:45 am	