



Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem

TIFERETH JERUSALEM • BETH DAVID • BETH YITZCHOK • KEHAL YESHURIN



2015 SPRING BULLETIN



What Freedom Sounds Like

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz

Pesach is no time for speechlessness. The Passover Seder, which is structured around the Haggadah, is an evening of talking. And telling the story of the Exodus isn't quite enough; you're supposed to speak about the slavery and freedom as much as possible, until you fall asleep at the table. The Passover Seder is an outburst of speech and song, a full evening performance of dialogue and discussion. Indeed, the great Kabbalist, the

Arizal, says that the word Pesach should be broken into two words, "peh sach", which means a speaking mouth, because Passover is a time for talking.

Freedom is always a noisy cacophony of voices. That's why the Seder features conversation; we celebrate the evening by asserting our freedom of speech.

Slavery, on the other hand, is about silence. As Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik puts it: "Before Moses came there was not even a single sound....The slaves were gloomy, voiceless and mute". A slave keeps his mouth shut; he forever stands in fear of his master. Silence suits the slave, who sees no point in complaining and no possibility of change.

We can see a reflection of the slave mentality in today's totalitarian governments. Citizens may speak, but only what's approved by the regime; their own thoughts must be silenced. Nicholas Kristoff describes a visit to North Korea he took in 1989: "I stopped in a rural area to interview two high school girls at random. They were friendly, if startled. So was I when they started speaking simultaneously and repeating political lines in perfect unison. They could have been robots." These girl's robotic responses were the words of slavery. In them you hear a soul too frightened to express itself or even dream of hope. The heart of the slave is silent, unable to express its' own thoughts. In the slave's silence you can hear the sad sounds of hopelessness and resignation.

The Zohar says that when Moshe arrived in Egypt, the voice of the Jewish people appeared. Moses, at first too frightened to talk himself, eventually finds his voice; and with the voice comes freedom. And since Moses, Jews have never lost their voice. And as we sit around the Passover Seder, we should remember that a direct line connects Moses' call of "let my people go" to the powerful words of Isaiah, and on to the words of Theodore Herzl, David Ben Gurion and Menachem Begin.

Perhaps the most remarkable characteristic of Jewish history is how the Jews never lost a sense of self-determination in years of crushing exile. Unquestionably, the Passover Seder kept the minds of the Jews free, even when their bodies remained in chains. Even during the Holocaust, Jews could speak to each other of freedom, and remain free in their hearts. Yaffa Eliach recounts an improvised Seder in Bergen Belsen. Rabbi Israel Spira, the Bluzhover Rebbe, spoke to the children and quoted Isaiah's messianic vision: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned". He told the children they too could hope for redemption, to walk out of darkness into light. Even in Bergen Belsen, Jews continued to speak of freedom. Even in the hell of the Holocaust, a few whispered words at the Seder could keep the dream of freedom alive.

At many Seders, the Haggadah is an impediment, something that gets between us and the brisket. But when you feel the urge to ask "how long will it take to finish the Haggadah?", remember that it's words, and in particular the words of the Haggadah, that have changed the world.

Have you logged on to our new website yet?

If you haven't received an email link to do so, please contact the office. Our new website allows you to see what's going on at TBDJ, access our full calendar, view & edit your account information, and submit payments or donations with ease.



An exciting new program aimed at connecting young professionals and families to the TBDJ experience.



“Around the Table” Lecture Series

with Rabbi Eddie Shostak

Dates: April 15 & 29

May 13 & 27

A bi-monthly series of classes for young professionals and couples. Delve into current, relevant and meaningful topics of Jewish thought and practice in an open and relaxed setting.

Shabbat Young Family Lunch

Dates: April 25 & May 23

Enjoy meaningful family time and delicious food in a friendly atmosphere.

UPCOMING EVENTS @ TBDJ



Shabbat Parshat Behar/Bechukotai, May 15-16

Rabbi Mordechai Becher

Originally from Australia, Rabbi Becher is a senior lecturer of the Gateways Organization and an instructor in Jewish History and Thought at Yeshiva University's James Striar School.

Topics include: “Where on Earth is the World to Come? Jewish Perspectives on the Afterlife”, “Unity, Pleasure and the NY Jets”, and “From Cairo to Cambridge: Jewish Treasures of Egypt”.

Special lecture series with
Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz:

“Death and Bioethics in the Jewish Tradition”

Tuesday Nights: May 5, 12, and 19.



In conjunction with the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

A panel discussion on

**Israel's Current Strategic and Security Issues
in The Region and Globally.**

Panel will include: Dr. Efraim Inbar, Dr. Hillel Frisch,
Dr. Jonathan Rhynhold, and Dr. Shmuel Sandler.



TBDJ proudly welcomes

Rabbi Elimelech Goldberg

Founder and International Director - Kids Kicking Cancer

Clinical Asst. Professor, Dept. of Pediatrics, Wayne State University School of Medicine

2014 CNN Hero of The Year

2012 People Magazine's Heroes Among Us

Shabbat Parshat Shelach - June 12 & 13, 2015

Rabbi Goldberg will address us on the topics of:

"A Perfect G-d Created an Imperfect World Perfectly"


and

"Shelach – Sending Men To Do a Boy's Job"



THERE'S MORE @ TBDJ



FEATURING CLOTHING FROM
 **Boutique Jacques** International

*Eat Well,
Dress Well*

May 6, 2015

**A STEAK & SUITS
EVENING FOR MEN
JOIN US FOR DINNER &
"SHMATOLOGY 101...
FOR THE CORPORATE MAN"**

DOORS OPEN 7:00PM

\$50 per person - <http://tbdj.org/events>

TBDJ'S "TASTES OF THE WORLD" DINNER SERIES



MAXIMO

**FINE MEXICAN FOOD WITH AN ATTITUDE
COMING THIS SUMMER!!! STAY TUNED FOR DATE & TIME**

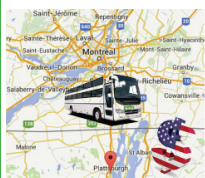
Calling all teenagers in Grades 7-9!!!

Our "TZE'IREI TBDJ" group has launched and has great programs coming up.

Sunday, April 26: MALL DAY in PLATTSBURGH, NY

Monday, May 18: MONTREAL SCAVENGER HUNT

Contact AMIEL@TBDJ.ORG to join with your friends.





All of Montreal's Youth are invited to TBDJ's 3rd annual

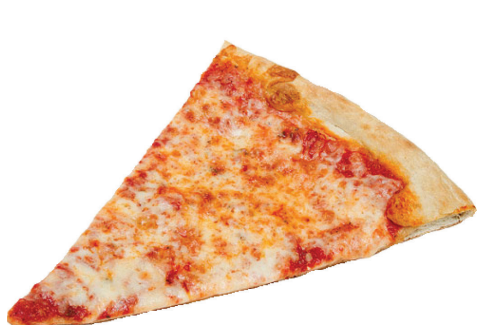
Junior Tikun Leil Shavuot

Shavuot Night Dinner & Learning

A dairy dinner will be served,
followed by a fun learning program geared to all levels.

All activities supervised by our Camp Ilan @ TBDJ staff.

- Who?** Youth in Grades 1 through 6
When? Saturday night, May 23rd @ 8:30pm
Pickup at 11:00pm
Where? TBDJ - 6519 Baily Rd.
Cost? FREE - reservations are required
RSVP? youth@tbdj.org - send name, school & grade



*Dinner will be nut and sesame free



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