



Kol K.L.

learn. inspire. grow. together.

April 2017 | Nisan - Iyar, 5777



16 Colt Road | Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201 | 413.445.4872 | knesetisrael.org • Rabbi David Weiner | Len Schiller, President

Passover is Welcomed

The Four Questions Are Asked Again



Are the Four Questions an occasion for reciting or for inquiring?

The custom of having the youngest child recite the “four questions” has its origin in rabbinic sources from Second Temple times. However, the Mishna in describing the ancient seder service shakes up our usual assumptions:

“They fill a second cup of wine for him (the leader of the Seder) — and here the child (the inquisitive child) asks his father. If the child lacks intelligence (‘daat’), his father teaches him: “How different this night is from all other nights! For on all other nights

we eat leavened bread and matza, etc.” (Pesachim 10.4)

The surprising point here is that the four questions are not formulated as questions but as statements of wonder. They are stated by the parents, not by the child — and only if the child lacks intelligence to ask spontaneously! The intelligent child is expected to notice the changes in the routine and inquire

about them. According to the Mishna, then, if all children were intelligent and curious, there would be no recital of a ritual text of four questions!

Nevertheless, *Ma Nishtanah* has earned an honored place at the seder. But one who is satisfied with only a formal recitation of questions is far from realizing the educational potential the Rabbis sought to develop.

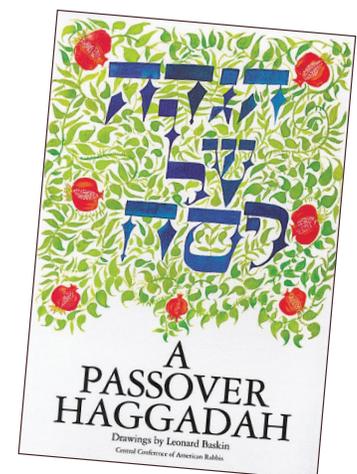
Source: *A Different Night Haggadah*, Noam Zion and David Dishon (1997)

Passover traditions continue at K.L.

Services begin on Monday, April 10 with Shaharit and Siyum for First-Born in the Chapel at 7:30 a.m.

The annual Jewish Federation of the Berkshires Community Seder is on Monday, April 10, 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. RSVP and payment required — call 413-442-4360.

Evening and morning services continue throughout the holiday. Please see page 7 for service and ritual times.



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Member Mitzvahs & Mazel Tovs

■ **Merle Ferber** and **Ziva** wish to thank all those at KI who made it possible for Ziva to come to live with Merle and be her constant helper/companion. It would not have been possible without those who contributed through Gofundme.com and through individual contributions. They also send their thanks to



everyone who helps with the daily routines of an energetic puppy. In gratitude, Merle and Ziva will be going out into the community to spread love and cheer where it is needed. Ziva will be coming to the wonderful K.I. Shabbat services with Merle so she can thank each one of you personally.

Anniversaries

- **Judith & Sydney Levine**April 3
- **Alice & Leonard Schiller**April 4
- **Myrna & Elie Hammerling**April 4
- **Lisa & Ed Udel**.....April 5
- **Beth & Bernard Abramson**.....April 6
- **Joanna & Ellis Fribush**April 10
- **Arlene & Gary Schiff**.....April 12
- **Phyllis & Ira Lieberman**April 22
- **Elaine & Leonard Lipton**April 30

Birthdays

- **Rose Foster**April 1
- **Barbara Ende**.....April 1
- **Loretta Prives**.....April 1
- **Asher Cook-Dubin**.....April 2
- **David Albert**.....April 3
- **Lynn Deborah Fribush**April 3
- **Jacob Epstein**April 4
- **Barbara Wyton**.....April 5
- **Tanya Mazurenko**,April 5
- **Allen Kopfstein**.....April 6
- **Andrea Joyce Fribush**.....April 6
- **Peter Andrew Lipton**.....April 7
- **Richard Charkow**April 9
- **Jeffrey Siegel**April 12
- **Larry Promisel**.....April 13
- **Leora Cook-Dubin**,April 15
- **Phyllis Schwartz**,.....April 16
- **David Ponemon**.....April 16
- **Michael Herman**.....April 17
- **Peter Simkin**April 17
- **Laura Rosenthal**.....April 17
- **Myla Blum**April 18
- **Felicia Jill Schiller**April 21
- **Ilana Beth Schiller**April 21
- **Ryan Robbins**April 22
- **Jenny Gitlitz**.....April 23
- **David Rosenthal**.....April 23
- **Aviva Skoblow**April 23
- **Elisa Snowise**April 23
- **Dale Charkow**,.....April 24
- **Rephael Spungen Bildner**April 26
- **Fran Wolk**April 26
- **Laura Israelite Weinstein**April 29
- **Shana Metzge**April 29



From the Rabbi

Every year, the familiar rituals of Passover provide us with a fresh opportunity to check in with the meaning of the central story of the Jewish people. Part of the power of ritual lies in its ability to sustain multiple meanings, to evoke several ideas simultaneously. As we clean our homes of *hametz*, assemble around the *seder* table, drink four cups of wine, hear the four questions, eat *matza* and *maror* and sing, *Eliyahu Hana-vi*, especially in a year like this one, it is hard not to become reflective. This year I find myself pondering the question of the so-called wicked child: What does this service mean to you? I have no particular axe to grind, so I ask the question minus its abrasive edge. I actually want to understand, even to celebrate the places to which telling and living and eating our story are taking us this year.

Here are some of the things on my mind, ideas that I am sure will come up at Torah discussions during services at KI and around my seder table. Perhaps one of these sets of questions will inspire the guests around *your* seder table, or maybe one of these questions will help you articulate the question you want to ask:

- The seder addresses Jews who are free as well as Jews who are persecuted. When we are free, the seder reminds us to be grateful for our relationship with



Rabbi David Weiner

God, to retell the Passover story, no matter what and to use our freedom wisely. When times are tough, the seder reminds us to always have hope – *Not once have they risen against us to finish us off; still, the Holy Blessed One saves us from their hands*. Which is the message you need to hear and speak out loud this year? Why? How will you do that? How do you feel about your answer?

- The storytelling concludes: *In every generation, everyone must see him/herself as if s/he personally left Egypt*. Typically we read this as encouragement to tell our story to each other in the shape of a retelling of the Exodus story. Once I was oppressed (by my horrible boss, by my addiction, by my fear of rejection, by my poor decisions, by my poverty, by my depression, by my anger...), but now I am free to serve God and thus fulfill my potential. But does this phrase feel different this year? Am I at the same place I usually find myself? Why should I tell my story this way, this year?
- The seder's ritual four cups of wine point to redemption being a four-part or four-step process. God takes us out of Egypt; saves us from our harsh labor; redeems us from captivity; takes us, from where we are, to make us God's people and bring us near to God. Some

פסח שמח
Happy Passover!

add a fifth step, based on the Cup of Elijah — God brings us to the Promised Land. What does each stage mean? Does this model add to our understanding of freedom? Is redemption an all-or-nothing process? A continuum? A cycle? A sequence? Where do you feel you are (or we are?), and what meaning does that have to you?

- *Dayyenu*. It would have been enough. Had God brought us out of Egypt but not split the Sea of Reeds, it would have been enough. Really? What do we need, as human beings, as citizens, as Jews, as children, spouses and parents? What do we yearn for? Take a look at the *Dayyenu* list for inspiration.

Do the rituals or story of seder lead you down the path of social or political activism? For what causes? On behalf of whom? How and why?

Judith, Joseph, Ari and Shira join me in wishing you a sweet and joyous Passover.

KOL K.I. publication notes

Editor: Susan Miller • Production: Deb Guinan & Nan Bookless • Printer: Aldam Press

DEADLINE: THE FIRST OF EVERY MONTH

Copy will not be accepted after that date to ensure our publication date.

Bulletin material and photographs will be accepted VIA EMAIL ONLY and sent to:

Susan Miller at sunpath2@gmail.com

learn.

Lifelong learning at KI!
From Hebrew School for our
children to stimulating classes
and programs for adults...

•
Lunch & Learn

Discover your inner Torah
Feed your spirit through
artistic expression

•
visit the calendar page at

knessetisrael.org

From the President

As I have been away from the Berkshires and Knesset Israel since January, I find myself somewhat at a loss as what to write. Much has been going on in my absence. From my sources, I have heard that the Purim event was a KI extravaganza. My congratulations go to KI Stones band. Each year this event seems to get better and better.



Len Schiller

While visiting Florida I always like to visit other synagogues in the area. This year we went to a Friday night service like our Shirei Shabbat service. We were looking forward to seeing how they conducted theirs in comparison to ours. Let me say that on a scale of 1-10 we are about a 20. As I sat there, I thought of the fantastic service we have evolved into. I think KI should franchise our service. Then we came to dinner. Once again, I must say we have some of the best chef's when it comes to preparing dinner. If you have experienced our Shirei Shabbat service, then you already know what a great experience it is. If you have not attended, then you are missing out on one of KI's best events.

As this article is written for April, everyone will be preparing for the Passover holidays. I think back to when I was young and all my relatives lived in close proximity. We would always celebrate the first night at my parents' home with all the family in attendance and then we would all shift to my Aunt and Uncle's house a few blocks away. My father

who grew up in Europe in an Orthodox family would always conduct the entire service in Hebrew and the night would end late. But as we grew, my cousins and my siblings all wanted to include English in the service. So, my father compromised and said we could do it in English. He would continue to do it in Hebrew. As the night progressed, he always finished before us. This custom in our family continues. We still have a mixture of English and Hebrew.

Whatever your custom is, Alice and I wish you and your family a very happy Passover.



Emergency Contacts

PASTORAL CARE.

If you are in need of emergency pastoral care for any reason, please contact Rabbi Weiner, 413-445-4872, ext. 10.

FUNERALS.

Knesset Israel's funeral arrangements are handled with Flynn-Dagnoli funeral home. Please call 413-663-6523 or 413-442-1733. You can also email flynn-dagnoli@albany.twcbc.com.

CARE COMMITTEE.

If you or another K.I. member you know is experiencing serious illness requiring support, please contact the Care Committee by calling the main office of Knesset Israel, 413-445-4872, ext. 10 and we will be in touch with you.

Key Contacts

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cemetary@knessetisrael.org

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YOUTH

Amy Abramovich..... 413-499-6388

February Board Meeting Highlights

Extensive discussion of security needs led to the initiation of a Security Committee under the leadership of Jonathan Denmark, vice-president of long range planning, and Don Sugarman, vice-president of facilities. The Committee is charged with developing security plans for the KI facility and programs, building relationships with local law enforcement, recommending security policies and procedures and arranging for staff, member and volunteer education.

The board reviewed a report from the Investment Committee.

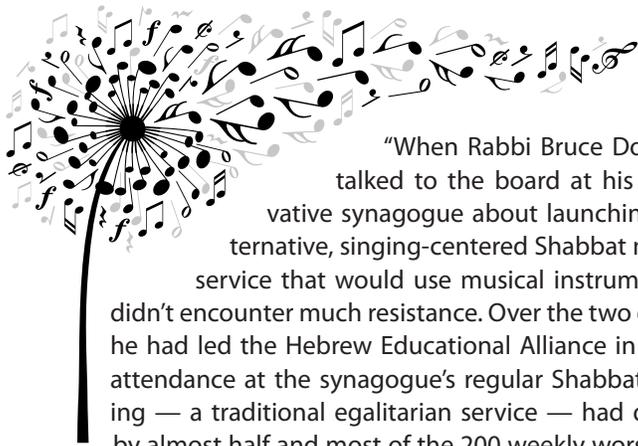
The renewal of the social hall is progressing appropriately, and the building phone network is being upgraded.

Planning continues for an exciting summer of programs and events.

Welcome new members, Burton and Linda Edelstein of New York City and Richmond, MA.

Musical Musings

Shirei Shabbat Brings Joy Through Music



“When Rabbi Bruce Dollin first talked to the board at his Conservative synagogue about launching an alternative, singing-centered Shabbat morning service that would use musical instruments, he didn’t encounter much resistance. Over the two decades he had led the Hebrew Educational Alliance in Denver, attendance at the synagogue’s regular Shabbat davening — a traditional egalitarian service — had declined by almost half and most of the 200 weekly worshippers were over age 50. Dollin had just returned from a sabbatical and wanted to test some fresh ideas. Called Shir Hadash, Hebrew for “new song,” the new service cut out certain prayers, was held in the round, encouraged participatory singing and featured drums.”

Sound familiar? Taken from a recent article I found published by the Jewish Telegraph Agency, this story above is the mirror of our own beloved Knesset Israel, and comes from the same recognition that has grown into our now nearly-ten-year old, legendary, and highly popular Shirei Shabbat!

Let’s read on: “The new minyan was an instant hit. Within months, dozens of regulars from the traditional service had switched over, and at least 70 people new to the synagogue had become Shir Hadash mainstays.”

“I wasn’t a good synagogue-going Jew for many years,” Denver native J.J. Slatkin, 32, told JTA. “Then I started going to Shir Hadash. There’s something about the music that allows me to turn off the rationalism in my brain and just connect to my spirituality in a way that I can’t do otherwise.”

“A growing number of Conservative synagogues across the country are turning to music — and musical instruments, which many once considered taboo on Shabbat — to rejuvenate their Shabbat services.”

I have the whole article if anyone is interested in reading it. Please feel free to email me at philcolemans54@hotmail.com and I will send you the link. But I think you get the gist.

There are many versions of musical Shabbat services now going around the Conservative movement, some very similar to our own, and some that are really different. Much of it depends on the resources of each place — some have great musicians who are already committed members like we do at KI, while some actually hire out professionals. We are also very blessed that Rabbi Weiner has embraced Shirei Shabbat and the concept of bringing music to a much more elevated and important centerpiece to our worship.

If you have not attended a Shirei Shabbat Friday night service, please put it on your calendar at once. Besides a joyful and happy evening that will truly change your perspective on what a Conservative service can be, we always have a great meal, conversations with friends new and old, and a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the synagogue in a living, breathing way that will surely make you a devoted Shirei Shabbat attendee! We have had as many as 160 guests for these services; we must be doing something right! Our next musical service is Friday, April 28. Reserve now!
—Phil Coleman, Chairman KI Music Committee

Berkshire Interfaith Organization

Spring Action: Holding Ourselves Accountable

On January 29th, B.I.O. held its Annual Convention at Congregation Knesset Israel in Pittsfield. We elected new officers, set and approved the yearly budget, ratified any approved changes to our constitution, updated our membership roster, and received issue team reports for choosing campaign issue cuts and welcomed new people sharing our goals in the Berkshire community.

B.I.O.’s Spring Action — to be held on April 30, 2017, 4-6 p.m. at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Pittsfield — is what is known in organizing as a public action, or “external action,” where we hold ourselves and public officials accountable. This is when we wield the power of our relationships. It is a time for focus on institutional/systemic change goals.

inspire.
Connect with each generation
Share through leadership
Tikkun Olam... transform our world.
•
visit
knessetisrael.org
for opportunities!

Of Interest

Lunch and Learn

Opening Our Eyes to Our Community

Things are seldom what they seem. We may live in a community for many years and barely know the names of the significant agencies and non-profits that are vital to many of our neighbors. We may hear the names of agencies and never know what they really do. Realizing how we all wear blinders, Kneset Israel is having a Lunch and Learn on Shabbat, April 1, to help open our eyes to one particular organization functioning in downtown Pittsfield for decades!

If we hear or read about Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority (BCRHA) we may assume, if we already own our own home or rent an apartment, that this is an organization of no direct personal interest. We might assume that this organization develops and manages public housing only. BUT Millie Blum, our guest speaker, will be coming to dispel that assumption! The programs and services now coordinated by BCRHA are numerous and far-reaching way beyond its generic title! The word "regional" is key to more than ten other satellite functions that provide various legal, consumer, foreclosure prevention, and mediation services and more to a wide population and geographic area.

The Shabbat service, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, will be followed by lunch. After lunch, Millie will give us an overview of the many subdivisions and functions of BCRHA, concentrating on its mediation functions. She will be happy to answer questions at the end of her talk. Her office is located at 1 Fenn Street in Pittsfield; the long-term Executive Director is Brad Gordon, whom some of you may know.

Please call 413-445-4872, ext. 10 before Wednesday, March 29, to reserve your seat for a delicious lunch prepared by congregational volunteers. The greater community is most welcome!

Maccabiah Games

Native Berkshire Youth Accepted to World Games



Kneset Israel member and Team USA fencer, Pearl Sutter

Congregation member, Pearl Sutter, has been selected to represent Team USA as a fencer at the 20th World Maccabiah Games this summer in Israel.

Often referred to as the "Jewish Olympics," the World Maccabiah Games are held every four years. It is considered the third-largest sporting event in the world with 9,000 athletes competing on behalf of 78 countries. Maccabi USA will include over 1,200 athletes from 30 sports, making up the largest contingent after Israel.

Pearl was selected from a large pool of applicants after a thorough review of her fencing resume. She will join a 12-member team, which includes participants from the North American Cup national championships. She will wield the sabre at the 20th Maccabiah. She was recently named part of the Second Team All-Conference for the Eastern Women's Fencing Conference after placing 6th overall in the championship. She finished this year's college fencing season with an 88-23 record.

She is a current junior in college studying neuroscience and biochemistry with hopes of attending medical school in Fall 2018. While at college, Pearl has continued to be an active member of the Jewish community as the vice president of her college chapter's Hillel.

"I am thrilled and honored that I will fence for Team USA this summer," Pearl said. "This is a dream come true for me that I would never have achieved without the unending support from my teammates, coaches, family and friends. I want to say thank you and I hope to make you all proud!"

There is currently a fund raising effort in place so that she can attend The Games. To support her fundraising efforts or to contact her regarding the Maccabiah Games, email her at pearl.sutter@gmail.com, or visit her fundraising page <https://tinyurl.com/pearl-sutter-maccabiah-usa>

Also attending the Games is a former member of K.I., Noah Stevens, now of Philadelphia, competing as a swimmer.

April Calendar

Passover at K.I.



SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday,Apr 7.....	7:08 PM
Monday,Apr 10.....	7:11 PM
<i>Eve of First day Passover</i>	
Tuesday,Apr 11.....	After 8:14 PM
<i>Eve of Second day Passover</i>	
Wednesday ..Apr 12.....	8:15 PM
Friday,Apr 14.....	7:16 PM
Sunday,Apr 16.....	7:18 PM
<i>Eve of Seventh day Passover</i>	
Monday,Apr 17.....	After 8:21 PM
<i>Eve of Eighth day Passover</i>	
Friday,Apr 21.....	7:24 PM
Friday,Apr 28.....	7:32 PM

REGULAR SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday.....	8:45 AM & 7 PM
Tuesday.....	7 PM
Friday.....	5:45 PM
Saturday.....	9:30 AM
Shirei Shabbat.....	April 28
18-33 mins. before sunset.....	5:30 PM

KOSHER MEAT DELIVERY

No orders due to Passover



EVENTS & MEETINGS

Lunch and Learn with speaker Millie Blum ..Sat., April 1.....	12 PM
JFB Community Seder.....	Mon., April 10.....6 PM
KI Board Meeting.....	Wed., April 19.....7 PM
Shirei.....	Fri., April 28.....5 PM
Hadassah and JFB meeting and speaker.....	Sun., April 30.....12 PM

CLASSES

CHAI Community School (Temple Anshe) ...Wed., April 5, 26.....	4-6 PM
Understanding Hebrew.....	Wed., April 5.....10-11:30 AM
A Look at Jewish Law.....	Sat., April 1, 8, 29.....9-10 AM
The Jacob Story (Teens Only).....	Sat., April 1, 8, 29.....8:40-9:30 AM
Hebrew School Shabbat Program (Knesset Israel)	
.....	Sat., April 1, 8, 29.....9AM -12 PM
Intro to Judaism.....	Mon., April 3, 24.....7:15 PM
Torah Portion of the Week (Library).....	Tues., April 4, 25.....10-11:30 AM
Talmud Study with Rabbi Weiner.....	Sat., April 1, 8.....Between mincha and maariv. Time varies with sundown

Holiday Services

PASSOVER, APRIL 10-18

Monday, April 10

<i>Shaharit and Siyum for First-Born</i>	
Chapel.....	7:30 AM
Festival Maariv.....	6 PM
Jewish Federation of the Berkshires	
Seder at KI social hall.....	6:30 PM

Tuesday, April 11

<i>First Day of Passover</i>	
Festival Shaharit.....	9:30 PM

Wednesday, April 12

<i>Second Day of Passover</i>	
Festival Shaharit.....	9:30 AM

Friday, April 14

Mincha/Maariv.....	5:45 PM
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Saturday, April 15

Shaharit.....	9:30 AM
No Hebrew School due to public school	
April vacation	

Sunday, April 16

Mincha/Festival Maariv.....	6:15 PM
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Monday, April 17

Festival Shaharit.....	9:30 AM
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Tuesday, April 18

Festival Shaharit.....	9:30 AM
Torah Service/Yizkor.... approx.	10:30 AM
Mincha only.....	7:00 PM

Pesah Rituals

Turn in Hametz sale form to the KI office by **Friday, April 7**

Search for Hametz on **Sunday, April 9**, after nightfall

Hametz burnt before **10:00 a.m.** on **Monday, April 10**

Monday, April 10 – light candles no later than **7:12 p.m.**

Tuesday, April 11 – light candles no earlier than **8:12 p.m.** (no typical havdala ritual)

continued on page 8

The Rabbinical Assembly publishes a guide to Passover observance, especially 'kosher for Passover', that is precise and specific.

You may download it at rabbinicalassembly.org/pesah-guide, or you may call the synagogue office, and we can print you a copy.

Passover at K.I.

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Wednesday, April 12 – havdala no earlier than **8:12 p.m.**

Friday, April 14 – light candles no later than **7:16 p.m.**

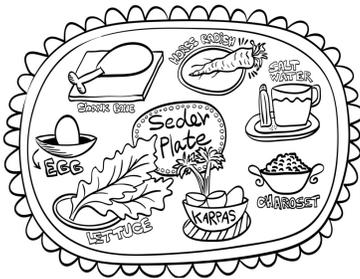
Saturday, April 15 – havdala no earlier than **8:16 p.m.**

Sunday, April 16 – light candles no later than **7:18 p.m.**

Monday, April 17 – light candles no later than **8:18 p.m.**

Tuesday, April 18 – havdala no earlier than **8:18 p.m.**

Hametz consumed no earlier than **9:18 p.m.** on **Tuesday, April 18**



Siyyum for the ‘Fast’ of the Firstborn

Monday, April 10, 7:30-8:45 AM

By tradition, firstborns would fast on the day before Pesah in recognition of the tenth of the Ten Plagues, the death of the firstborn. However, completing the study of a significant volume of Jewish text, such as a tractate from the Talmud or book of midrash, creates an obligation to a celebratory meal... that overrides the tradition of fasting.

No matter where you fall in the birth order of your family, please join Rabbi Weiner and the Saturday afternoon minyan for our ‘Siyyum’ celebration at the conclusion of our study of Tractate Rosh Hashana of the Talmud. Firstborns of any gender are especially welcome!

Selling of Hametz/Maot Hittim Fund

Donate Hametz to Food Pantry / Help Others Have Matzo at Passover

Although we make every effort to rid our homes of *hametz* for Passover, Jewish tradition is aware that this discipline might prove financially prohibitive or wasteful. When feasible, make donations of unopened boxes of *hametz* to a local food pantry — both South Congregational Church, and The Christian Center in Pittsfield operate one — and discard open boxes or containers of *hametz*. Some food (or drink, or pet) that is considered *hametz* might remain in your home, with or without your knowledge, and this needs to leave

your possession to enable a full experience of the holiday. **To empower Rabbi Weiner as your agent for selling of your hametz, please fill out the form below and either mail or bring it to the synagogue no later than Friday, April 7.**

Our tradition mandates that those who are financially able help Jews who are in need celebrate Passover — “Maot Hittim”. As you empower Rabbi Weiner as your agent for the sale of *hametz*, please enclose a donation to help all Jews eat matza, the bread of freedom, this year.

I hereby authorize Rabbi David Weiner as agent for Congregation Knesset Israel, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, to act on my behalf to sell, transfer and assign all *hametz* of whatever kind and wherever situated in my residence or my business or any other place without reservation or limitation.

All the aforesaid *hametz* is to be sold to a non-Jew who is to have free access to the *hametz* acquired by him. I further state that the *hametz* covered by the agreement will be stored away and not used by me during the period commencing no later than 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 10, 2017, and ending no earlier than 9:18 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18, 2017.

Enclosed is my (our) contribution of \$_____ to the Maot Hittim Drive, Congregation Knesset Israel. Please distribute these funds in my (our) behalf to individuals in need and to organizations which are helping our fellow Jews observe Passover with dignity and joy and to help alleviate the distress of hunger from all those in need.

The authorization is legalized by my signature on this _____ day of _____.

Name(s): _____

Address(es): _____

Please return/mail this form to:
 Congregation Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201
 Email is also effective — office@knessetisrael.org with name and address(es).

Kabblat Service Speaker

Shirei Shabbat • Friday, April 28

Yefim Kogan presents "An Introduction to Jewish Genealogical Research"



Yefim Kogan

Congregation Knesset Israel is privileged to introduce a new synagogue member who has offered to present a program after the *Shirei Shabbat* service and dinner on, Friday evening, April 28th. Yefim Kogan of Boston and Lee, Massachusetts, will present "An Introduction to Jewish Genealogical Research" at 7:45 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Born in Kishinev, Moldova, Yefim migrated to Boston from the Soviet Union in 1989 and pursued extensive genealogical and historical research in this country. Well-educated, both here and abroad, Yefim holds a Master's Degree from Moscow State University in Mathematics and Computers. He has more than 30 years of experience in Software Design and Development in Health Care Information Systems. A personal curiosity to learn more about his family's roots led him to a second Master's degree: Master of Jewish Liberal Studies from Hebrew College in Boston with a focus on Jewish Cultural History.

Yefim became very active in the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston and JewishGen, an international, non-profit affiliated with the Museum of Jewish Heritage. He has taught classes on Jewish Genealogy for the local Jewish Russian communities of Brookline and Boston. In 2011 Kogan organized a Bessarabia Special Interest Group for JewishGen and, thus, leads a group of about 800 members from 25 countries to discover their roots in the Bessarabia region. He has presented at International Jewish Genealogical Conferences in Paris, Jerusalem and several cities in the United States.

Yefim asked his parents to draw a family tree thirty years ago; this simple request, as the family was making Aliyah from their birthplace, ignited his passion to discover more family truths. He now can identify his own forbearers back to the 1750's, others from the mid-nineteenth century and has reunited with ancestors presumed lost in the Holocaust.

Yefim and his wife, Galina, have a second home in Lee, two married sons and two grandchildren.



All are welcome to attend the *Kabblat Shabbat* service beginning at 5:30 p.m. The up-tempo musical accompaniment to the traditional melodies promises to offer a joyous conclusion to the work-week and a social welcoming of Shabbat. Reservations can be made for a delicious Kosher dinner (6:30-7:30 p.m.) either online at knessetisrael.org, via phone at 413-445-4872 ext. 10, or by mailing a check to 16 Colt Road. (\$18 per adult)

Are you ready to learn Hebrew?

*Identify the Hebrew Aleph-Bet
Sound out words and phrases
Participate more fully in services*

Don't let the unfamiliar appearance of the Hebrew Aleph-Bet intimidate you!

You can learn to decode Hebrew words and phrases in eight enjoyable lessons this coming spring at Congregation Knesset Israel. At your final session, your class will sing Hatikvah, a beautiful Hebrew song of hope! On eight consecutive Thursday afternoons from May 11-June 29, from 3:30-5:00 pm, Myrna Hammerling, Director of Adult Education, will guide you through the process of learning to read Hebrew.

אבג
דהוזחטי'כך
למסנוסעפ
ףצקרתשת

English is a far more challenging language to learn than Hebrew! In English, for instance, one sound can have several spellings or pronunciations, e.g., "ow" in plough, now or crow or the "f" sound in off, enough, or for. Hebrew has a consistently phonetic set of sounds for its consonants and vowels. Most consonants, for instance, whether occurring at the beginning, middle or end of a word, will sound identical. Each vowel will also have the same sound whenever it occurs.

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Seth Rogovoy to Speak

"American Jewry's Greatest Dylan Scholar" to discuss Bob Dylan's Jewish Influences

Seth Rogovoy, termed "American Jewry's greatest Dylan scholar" by Religious News Service, will present a multimedia program exploring the Jewish influences in the life and work of a Nobel Prize-winner whose name is familiar to all: "The Kabbalah of Bob Dylan," at Knesset Israel on Monday, May 22, at 7pm. The event is co-sponsored by Congregation Knesset Israel and Temple Anshe Amunim.

With the aid of audio clips, video, still images, and textual comparisons, Seth Rogovoy, author of "Bob Dylan: Prophet Mystic Poet" (Scribner 2009), will illustrate how Bob Dylan's songwriting has always been profoundly rooted in Jewish writings, including the Torah, the Prophets, the Talmud, and mysticism, fusing these inspirations into a genre of "rock 'n' roll midrash." Along the way, the program will examine the Minnesota-born folksinger's deeply religious and cultural upbringing, his commitment to Jewish practice and causes, and his long connection to Chabad.

Seth Rogovoy is a familiar name to Berkshire readers and public radio listeners. For 16 years he was a music critic and arts writer at the Berkshire Eagle; he was the founding editor of *Berkshire Living magazine*; and his weekly cultural commentary has been heard on WAMC Northeast Public Radio Network for two decades. A graduate of Williams College, Seth was formerly a board member of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and a member of congregations Ahavat Shalom in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and Beth-El in Bennington, Vermont. A founder of the South Berkshire Minyan, Seth now lives in Hudson, New York.



Photo by Richard Lovrich

Seth Rogovoy

Seth is also an expert on klezmer, having penned "The Essential Klezmer: A Music Lover's Guide to Jewish Roots and Soul Music" (Algonquin, 2000), the all-time, best-selling guide to the music.

Seth was awarded the 2016 Simon Rokower Award from the American Jewish Press Association for excellence in arts and criticism for his portrait of musician Leonard Cohen (z'l) published in the April/May 2015 issue of *Hadassah Magazine*.

Seth is a contributing editor to the English edition of the *Forward*, for which he has written for more than 25 years. His work has been published in *Haaretz*

(Israel), *Jewish Press* (U.K.), *Jewish Quarterly* (U.K.), *Tablet*, *Pakn Treger*, *Berkshire Jewish Voice*, *Newsday*, *Boston Phoenix*, *Chronogram*, *Woodstock (N.Y.) Times*, and others. He is the programming consultant for the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, where he curates the annual Yidstock: Festival of New Yiddish Music. Seth's Friday weekly cultural commentary can be heard on WAMC Northeast Public Radio Network on Midday Magazine. He also publishes daily and weekly newsletters in his online magazine of cultural and critical news and observations, the Rogovoy Report.

Guitar players can bring their instruments to "jam" with Seth on Bob Dylan songs at the conclusion of his presentation. Light refreshments and beverages will be served. Seth's books will be available for purchase after the program.

Tickets are \$18 and can be purchased online at www.knessetisrael.org; reserved at Knesset Israel's main office during business hours; called in with credit card at 413-445-4872, ext. 10; mailed to 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201 with enclosed check to Knesset Israel.

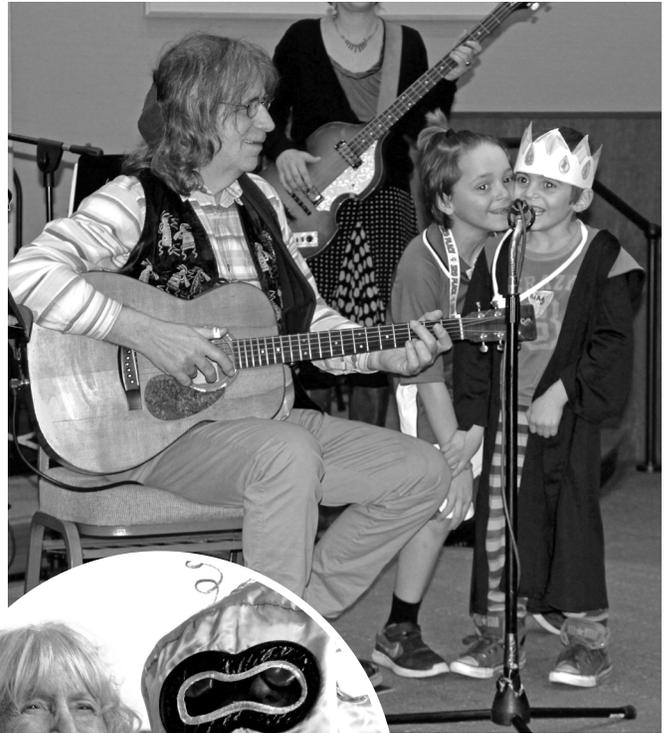
continued from page 9

Are you ready to learn Hebrew?

Interested enrollees can call Myrna Hammerling for registration or further information at 413-445-4872, ext. 16. The fee for the series is \$50, which includes the textbook and supplementary printed materials. Often people take the class to refresh the reading fluency they may have once had. If one already has the book, the course fee is \$25. If the dates work and the times do not, please let Ms. Hammerling know. Perhaps other students may require a change of time also, given the many possible schedules in the class.

Purim at K.L.

Can you name the celebrants?



4/1– 5 NISSAN

Hilda Dunaieff
Natalie Holland
Rebecca Savitz
Morgenstein
Sally Schatsky
Walter B. Samek

4/2– 6 NISSAN

Nathan Bass
Shirley J. Bookless

4/3– 7 NISSAN

Betty Braun
Machla Weis
Robert S. Friedman

4/4– 8 NISSAN

Joseph Robinson

4/5– 9 NISSAN

Anna R. Goodman
Barnett Cotton
Elliott Lubin
Harry Wasser
Lillian Jaffe
Polly Shapiro

4/6–10 NISSAN

Alex Cohen
Esther Weisberger
Fanny Novick
Harry Schatsky
Temah Rashkes

4/7–11 NISSAN

Shirley Starr
Sylia Simme Frank

4/8–12 NISSAN

Samuel Weiss
Sonia Weiss

4/9– 13 NISSAN

Carole Schiller Kraus
Dorothy Lerman Weiss
Dorothy Levine
Gertrude Schwartz
Maxwell Cutler
Murray M. Samek
Pearl London
Stuart Marks

4/10– 14 NISSAN

Esther Lubin
Frank Udel
Pincus Rosenfeld

4/11– 15 NISSAN

Florence Horn
Libby Perlman
Rose Weiss

4/12– 16 NISSAN

Bertha Rosenblatt
Mary Temple

4/13– 17 NISSAN

Ferenc Glattstein
Harry Weinberger

Hyman Bitensky
Jacob L. Becker
Murray Mandel
Sol Goldman

4/14– 18 NISSAN

Alice Weeks
Anna Herman
Bradley Jay Medney
David Siegel
Frieda Rosenthal
Julius Kramer
Stella Goldberg
LeVine

4/15–19 NISSAN

Arline Fletcher
Bella Schaitkin
Benjamin Cohen
Harry Green
Rebecca Horelly

4/16– 20 NISSAN

David Schwartz

4/17– 21 NISSAN

Abe Geller
Irving Marks
Sarah Penziner
Shirley Lerman Lodis

4/18– 22 NISSAN

Boris Zernitsky
Diane Marmulstein
Freadman
Rebecca Fishelson

4/19 - 23 NISSAN

Harry David Green
Lippman Cohen
Louis Gorfinkle

4/207 - 24 NISSAN

Harris Cohen
Ida Marks

4/21 - 25 NISSAN

John Green
Libby Levine Strauss
Roslyn Alexander
William Harris

4/22 - 26 NISSAN

Anna Astrachan
Hyman Goldstein
Julius Feigenbaum
Selma Edna Schreiber

4/23 - 27 NISSAN

Ethel Prives
Jack Miller
Leonard Liverman

4/247 - 28 NISSAN

Esther Tabaknek
Goldstein
Sarah C. Harris
Semyon Berlin
William Shusterman

4/25 - 29 NISSAN

Carole Goodman

Charles Robbins
Gershon Udel
Roslyn Abel
Samuel Spiegel
Sandra Alhadeff

4/26 - 30 NISSAN

Gertrude Goodman
Louis Frankel
Mae Mones
Theodore Louzin

4/27 - 1 IYYAR

Eve Lerner
Simon Gorfinkle

4/28 - 2 IYYAR

Lena Goodheartz

4/29 - 3 IYYAR

Anna Rich
Archie Weinstein
Betty Beck Turetsky
Bruce M. Havsy
Fay Buff

4/30 - 4 IYYAR

Benjamin Rosenshein
Rose Cohen



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With gratitude for the congregation's
generous hosting of our students
during their Winter Study refugee
advocacy project, both allowing them
to film in the library and welcoming
them for Shirei Shabbat.

*Williams College Center for Learning
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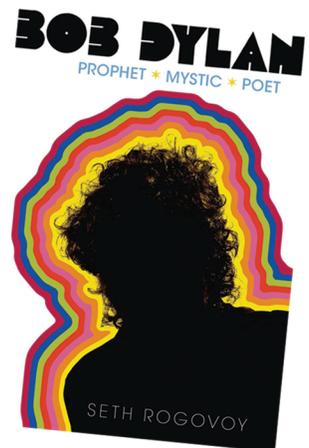
SETH ROGOVOY

The Kabbalah of Bob Dylan

a multimedia program
exploring the Jewish influences
in the life and work of
Nobel Prize-winner Bob Dylan

by **SETH ROGOVOY**

American Jewry's greatest Dylan scholar
—Religious News Service



Monday, May 22 • 7pm • admission: \$18*

Kneset Israel / 16 Colt Rd / Pittsfield

refreshments • bring your guitar for a jam session after the presentation



* read full article for details on page 10 / sponsored by Kneset Israel & Temple Anshe Amunim