



SONS *of* ABRAHAM

LAFAYETTE, IN
Established 1889

March, 2010

15 Adar - 16 Nissan 5770

President: Mark Lillianfeld

Send bulletin items to:

penmike@embarqmail.com

Sisterhood co-Presidents:

Jo Gartenhaus and Sonya Garfinkel

Gratitude, Condolences, and Congratulations

Mazel Tov to the Barash family on the marriage of **Sonia Barash's** granddaughter, Ilana Barash, to Thomas Austin. Mazel Tov to **Susan and Earl Prohofsky** on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Alyssa, and to her parents, Judy and Allen Prohofsky. Our warmest vote of gratitude to **Elana Salzman** for a delightful program of Jewish music at the February Sisterhood General meeting. Thanks also to **Jo Gartenhaus** for hosting the event.

A special Mazel Tov to **Mike Adler** as he takes over the editorship of this publication beginning with the April edition. Yours truly will still be around to send

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Mike the occasional duly credited item from the web etc. which he reserves the right to reject. **Harriet Diamond** and **Jo Gartenhaus** will remain on hand to provide Mike with their indispensable editing, production, and reporting services. We are indeed fortunate to have so literate, conscientious and capable a gentleman as **Mike Adler** to step forward to edit the shul bulletin. None of the several people who work to produce the bulletin is paid, of course, but we should remember to reward all of them with the occasional kind word and to make their jobs easier by providing the news items they need to fill these columns. Remember too that our basic SOA policy regarding all synagogue volunteer tasks ranging from soliciting aliyot to frying latkes applies: Kvetch and ye shall be involuntarily committed to said task.

Rabbi's Reflections

Four Questions?

A favorite pastime is to figure out what are the four (or is it one or five) questions in Mah nishtannah that children recite in most traditions. Having children ask is one way to keep their interest by giving them a part to do. We also appreciate that they have to practice some Hebrew, though we more often think of the performance value as we so rightly qvel (beam in delight) when they accomplish it. As I have pointed out in the past, based on Abarbanel, any question may be asked, but our tradition spe-

cifically picks those that stress the contradictions between, and intermingling of, slavery and freedom.

Questioning is at the heart of Judaism. We are not a static religion, nor are we one that requires us to submit blindly to authority (even though today's Orthodox think so). Even the traditional sing-song learning chant conveys this idea. Inquiry is at freedom's heart: slaves obey (queries imply revolt), free people have the luxury to question (answering requires investigating and analyzing). Asking ensures that we do not celebrate by rote, that observance does not become stale, that we think—i.e. philosophize. This allows us to avoid the dangers of remaining static, keeps a fixed text fresh, and provides the experience by which we translate this ritual into meaning since God does not redeem us every year, and most of us do not act out the story.

The Mishnah has three questions. By the Talmud's redaction well after the Temple's destruction, the service has changed and a fourth question is added. The Mishnah (Pesachim 10:4) says that we mix the second cup and here the child asks (cf. the four children based on youth asking the meaning of the Exodus: Ex. 12:26; 13:8, 14; Deut. 6:20). The genius of the seder's design is to be different from other meals. Children are supposed to ask questions spontaneously. We no longer follow the early order, nor do we eat in the style of the symposium banquet, so the oddities do not mean much—it's all odd. The Bible, and the rabbis, were well aware that not all children ask (they might not know enough, or be curious), so the Mishnah tells the parent to instruct the child, or guide the child, to ask. In other words, the parent is responsible for prompting the child to ask; accordingly, the leader must ask the questions in some traditions. The Four Questions are a crutch, a vehicle to promote the most important ideas (a la Abarbanel).

I was taught that virtually every sentence in the Mishnah beginning with the word, mah, is not a question but a statement, unlike in modern Hebrew. Mah nishtannah ha-lailah ha-zeh mikkol ha-leilot, translated as: "Why is this night different from all

other nights?" actually should be, "How different is this night from all other nights!" Thus the answer to our original question is: the opening is a statement and the following four clauses actually constitute the four questions.

This year, in good Jewish fashion, bring new questions to the table. Thinking up new questions also helps us to fulfill the custom of preparing for the seder in advance. Remember, the answer is not nearly as important as the question. The seder matters and is important only in so far as we think about why Pesah and the Exodus matter.

M'KHIRAT HAMETZ

I must sell the hametz Monday morning March 29, so you must have this form to me by early that morning. While it is preferable to drop it off to me in person and go through a ceremony, I will be in Lafayette the weekend of March 19-21. Please note, that if you mail it, it goes through Kalamazoo and is delivered late afternoon, so allow extra time.

Rabbi Michael Rascoe

2050 Broadway

Benton Harbor MI 49022-6699

(Please wait until 9:15 P.M. Eastern Daylight Savings Time on Tuesday April 6 for me to buy back hametz.)

**APPOINTMENT OF AGENT FOR M'KHIRAT
HAMETZ**

I/We hereby appoint Rabbi Michael Rascoe to act as my/our agent to sell any hametz (leavened item) that may be found in my/our possession wherever it may be found at home, place of business, car, and/or elsewhere, in accordance with Jewish law. Enclosed is my/our check for \$ payable to the "Rabbi's Discretionary Fund" (unless you make a Ma-ot Hittim (Passover) donation elsewhere).

Please fill out the form completely:

Name

Phone

Address

Signature

Date

HOSPITALITY

Since we do not offer a shul seder, in the spirit of mishpahah (family) the rabbi will arrange for people to go somewhere for the first two nights of seder. Please fill out the top form if you need a place to go. Please fill out the bottom form if you can host someone. Thank you.

TO VISIT

I/We [] (put a number in the brackets) would enjoy home hospitality for the first night seder on Monday March 29 and/or Tuesday March 30 (circle either one or both).

Name

Phone

Address

Additional comments/Dietary restrictions

TO HOST

With pleasure, we are prepared to host [] (put a number in the brackets) people for our first night seder on Monday March 29 and/or Tuesday March 30 (circle either one or both).

Name

Phone

Address

Additional comments/Dietary restrictions

Pesah Instructions: If you wish printed instructions for Pesah , including food requiring rabbinic certification (hekhsher), how to kasher, how to conduct a seder, a minimal seder, what the seder means, extra (more contemporary) readings, formulae to be recited, and other pertinent information, contact me at «mlrascoe@yahoo.com» or 269-269 208 -8897.

Bedikat hametz. The search for leaven, Sunday, March 28 after 8:11 PM. What is important is the search and not whether you find something, though traditionally most people set aside hametz for children to find by candlelight and sweep onto a wooden spoon using a feather or last Sukkot's lulav.

Ta'anit/Siyyum Bekhorim. On the day leading into Pesah, Monday, March 29, the firstborn (bekhorim) fast (ta'anit) to express their gratitude for God's saving them from the tenth plague. Since all who are at a se'udat mitzvah (a meal accompanying a religious celebration) must eat, the custom arose that a Talmudic tractate is finished (siyyum) that morning, so even the firstborn present must eat. We do not have one.

M'khirat Hametz, kashering, eating. The last time to sell leaven, m'khirat hametz, kasher your kitchen, and eat hametz is Monday, March 29 at 11:49 AM. A form to use my services is elsewhere in this bulletin. Please remember, you must allow time for the form to reach me. I sell everyone else's hametz by this time so I must have it earlier. You may give me the form as soon as you receive it. I will be in Lafayette March 19-21, and in the office in Benton Harbor on Monday March 29. (Please wait until 9:15 P.M. Eastern Daylight Savings Time on Tuesday April 6 for me to buy back hametz.)

Bi'ur Hametz. The burning/disposal (bi'ur) of hametz and its nullification formula must be recited by Monday, March 29 at 12:52 PM.

Hospitality Forms. On another page are forms for requesting hospitality or hosting those who do not have a place to go. Please return the form as soon as possible so I can make arrangements.

Board To Meet

The Shul Board of Directors will meet at the Shul on Thursday, **March 18, 2010, at 8:00 p.m.** Board meetings are open to all members.

NAME	HEBREW DATE	2010
Goodman, Solomon	Adar 16	March 2
Pearlman, Bara	Adar 17	March 3
Gershovitz, Peretz	Adar II 17	March 3
Goldstine, Frank	Adar 18	March 4
Simon, Esther	Adar 18	March 4
Kalski, Edythe	Adar II 18	March 4
Berger, Harriet Anne Glick	Adar 19	March 5
Radinsky, Moshe D.	Adar 20	March 6
Benzer, Dottie	Adar 22	March 8
Bercovitz, David	Adar 23	March 9
Bass, M.	Adar II 24	March 10
Rubinstein Gilbert	Adar 27	March 13

Kaplan, Hillel	Nissan 1	March 16
Bosco, Bessie	Nissan 2	March 17
Savitz-Brownstein, Kay	Nissan 5	March 20

Name	Hebrew Date	2010
Garfinkel, Tillie Schaffner	Nissan 5	March 20
Pickus, Morris L.	Nissan 6	March 21
Zaban, William	Nissan 8	March 23
Rostov, Samuel	Nissan 9	March 24
Rubinstein, Morris L.	Nissan 12	March 27
Fishelson, Matus	Nissan 15	March 30
Gordon, Kusiel Daniel	Nissan 15	March 30
Goldberg, Rae	Nissan 16	March 31
Schreiber, Marvin	Nissan 16	March 31
Ben-Ami, Henia	Nissan 17	April 1
Winski, Rose F.	Nissan 18	April 2
Winski, Oscar	Nissan 23	April 7
Kaplan, Lillian	Nissan 23	April 7
Cohen, Lee	Nissan 24	April 8

March

Candle lighting Times

source: Rabbi Rascoe

Date	Time
Mar. 5	6:28 p.m.
Mar. 12	6:36 p.m.
Mar. 19	7:43 p.m.
Mar. 26	7:50 p.m.
Mar. 29 Pesach	7:54 p.m.
Mar. 30 Pesach	8:54 p.m.
April 2	7:58 p.m.
April 4 Pesach	8:00 p.m.
April 5 Pesach	9:00 p.m.

Refuah Shelema

Almighty God, we offer prayers for health, complete recovery and long life to **Sarah Raskin, Madelyn Lillianfeld, Fritz Friedlaender, and Barney Axelrod.**

Sisterhood Offers Happy Day Cards

To commemorate any "simcha" or recognize any other event call Bette Rubinstein at 463-4754 or Iris Treager at 463-2468, They will send your card for a minimum donation of \$5.00. Send your check, made out to Sisterhood Sons of Abraham, to Sonya Garfinkel, Sisterhood Treasurer, 2229 Carberry Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47906.

March Calendar

February 27 Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Megillah reading
February 28 Sunday, 12:30 Hillel JFGL Purim Carnival. You don't have to be a kid to have fun at a Purim Carnival!! 12:30 - 3:00 p.m. 912 W. State St.

Mar. 1: **MONDAY, 1:30 p.m (Change)** Sisterhood Board Meeting. Home of Heather Moskowitz

Mar. 5: Friday, 8:00 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services

Mar. 6 Saturday, 10 a.m. Shabbat Services

Mar. 8: Monday **JOINT SISTERHOODS AND HADASSAH MEETING AT TEMPLE ISRAEL**

NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION...Program on Susan G. Komen Foundation program to establish world's only research bank of healthy human breast tissue for investigative purposes.

Mar. 12 - 14 Rabbi Rascoe will be in town

Mar. 12: Friday, 8:00 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services

Mar. 13: Saturday, 10 a.m. Shabbat Services

Mar. 18: Thursday 8:00 p.m. Shul Board Meeting at the Shul.

Mar. 18 Cyrelle Simon Open House 7 - 10 p.m. (see next page for details)

Mar. 19 - 21: Rabbi Rascoe will be in town.

Mar. 19: Friday, 8:00 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Mar. 20: Saturday, 10 a.m. Shabbat Service

Mar. 21: Sunday, 7 p.m Yiddish Kultur Vinkl

(see next page for details)

Mar. 26: Friday, 8:00 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Mar. 27: Saturday, 10 a.m. Shabbat Service

Rabbi's Calendar

March 12 - 14

March 19 - 21

Cyrelle Simon to Visit Us

Cyrelle Simon, whom we have jokingly named Director of the Sons of Abraham Jerusalem Branch, will be in Lafayette and visiting with friends in the social hall of the shul on Thursday, March 18 from 7:00 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. Any and all who would like to visit with Cyrelle are invited to this event. Cyrelle also hopes to arrange a luncheon on Friday, March 19 at 12:30 p.m. with place to be announced. She also plans to be in shul Friday evening and Shabbos morning because she will be staying over at Loeb House.

Yiddish Kultur Vinkl Meets March 21

Cyrelle Simon will be presenting "My Family's Favorite Songs" on CD's, tapes, and via sing alongs at home of Sonia Barash at 7 p.m. on Sunday March 21. Cyrelle is the founder of the of the Yiddish Kultur Vinkl and is visiting Lafayette from Israel the third week of March. She is doing her best to circulate among every imaginable circle of Jewish interest and this, of course, includes services. If you know Yiddish music or would just like to learn some, come enjoy this evening of song, laughter and emotion.

Shul Board Solicits Donations to Special Purpose Funds

The Chosnek Fund, named for Sam and Edith Chosnek, is for ritual. For example, the fund could be used to repair or replace such things as Torah covers and the like. The Elkin Fund, named for Barry Elkin, is for educational purposes. It might be used, for example, to pay part of the cost of bringing a speaker. The 100th Anniversary Fund, established by Ed Simon, is for capital expenses in building maintenance. This fund provides a naming opportunity for remodeling our sanctuary. The Ha Gomel fund is to celebrate recent recoveries from illness.

Sons of Abraham Special Funds Donation Form

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$_____. Please apply it to:

Ha Gomel (recovery) of _____

100th Anniversary Fund (Building) _____

Elkin Fund (education) _____

Chosnek Fund (ritual) _____

Donation in honor / memory of _____

Is the donor's name to be held in confidence? _____

Send check with this form to Sons of Abraham

P.O. Box 2671 / West Lafayette, IN 47996-2671.

Donations will be acknowledged.

Donor(s): _____

Address: _____

Purdue University Jewish Studies Noon Lecture and Discussion Series

Wednesday, March 10 ~ Beering Hall, Room 1222 ~ 12:30

Rebekah Klein-Pejšová, Jewish Studies Assistant Professor of History, Department of History, Purdue University, "The Strange Case of Rabbi Dr. Samuel Funk, Or, Jewish Nationality in Interwar Czechoslovakia."

In February 1927, the Chief Rabbi of the Neolog Jewish Community in Bratislava, Samuel Funk, became the object of a six-year investigation by the Czechoslovak state administration based on grievances lodged against him by the assimilationist Union of Slovak Jews. During the course of the investigation, the state made a dramatic turn-around in its assessment of Rabbi Funk: from viewing him as a "magyarophile element" working under the cover of Zionism, to "loyal Czechoslovak citizen" and advocate of the Jewish lower classes! How and why did this astonishing change occur? This lecture looks at the indicators used by the Czechoslovak state to form its perception of Rabbi Funk, as well as the wider implications of the case for perceptions of Jewish citizenship loyalty in Interwar East Central Europe.

Rebekah Klein-Pejšová is Jewish Studies Assistant Professor of History at Purdue University. She specializes in Modern Jewish and East Central European social history, with research interests focusing on the problem of loyalty in state/society relations in the region of today's Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic since the early 20th century. Prof. Klein-Pejšová earned her Ph.D. from Columbia University in 2007, after completing her M.A. degree at the Central European University in Budapest, and her B.A. degree at Bard College. Before coming to Purdue, she taught at the City University of New York, and in the History and Jewish Studies Departments at Rutgers University. She is currently working on a book manuscript concerning the dynamics of Jewish nationality and citizenship in Interwar East Central Europe. Her article, "'Abandon Your Role as Exponents of the Magyars': Contested Jewish Loyalty in Interwar (Czecho) Slovakia," was published in the November 2009 issue of the journal

Association of Jewish Studies Review. She is the Associated Scholar of the Slovak Jewish Heritage Center in Bratislava, Slovakia (www.slovak-jewish-heritage.org).

Prof. Klein-Pejšová's regularly taught courses include: Jews in the Modern World, The Global History Survey, Holocaust and Genocide, Post-Communist Jewish Identities, and After Empire: the Jewish Experience in Interwar East Central Europe, Russia, and the Middle East. She is working to develop a travel course on Sites of Jewish Heritage and Community in East Central Europe, and the graduate seminar Beyond Borders: Eurasian Cultures and Societies since 1300.

All members of the Purdue University community and the public are cordially invited to attend events offered by the Jewish Studies Program. <http://www.cla.purdue.edu/jewish-studies/>

New Kosher Bakery Comes to Indy

Great Cooks Bakery is at 1321 W. 86th St, at the SE quadrant of 86th and Ditch Road. The phone number is 317-202-2435. Hours are 8 a.m till 7 p.m M - Th. Fridays are 8 a.m till dusk. Sundays hours 8 a.m to 3 p.m. A new section is opening to serve dairy lunches including salads, pastries, and the like. Bagels are freshly baked daily and NU??? When are we going???