

Lake Park Synagogue *Ruach*



Adar– Nisan 5772 February 2012
 Lake Park Synagogue * 3207 N Hackett * Milwaukee WI 53211
 Tel: (414) 962-5508 * Fax (414) 964-2837 * www.lakeparksynagogue.org



Caricaturist Bill

Begos to Entertain at Purim Seudah

Details p. 5



Kate Wargin and Zabrina Tamarkin from UWM Hillel bake challah in the LPS kitchen as part of Hillel's 'Challah for Hunger' program to benefit JHelp.

Annual Dinner

Set for May 16th

This year's Lake Park Synagogue annual dinner will be held Wednesday evening, May 16th at the Jewish Museum Milwaukee. Honorees will be our outgoing President, Jane Avner, and her husband Ellis.



Joining us from New York to speak at the dinner will be the executive Vice President of the Orthodox Union, Rabbi Steven Weil.

Invitations to the dinner will be mailed shortly, along with material for reserving space in the tribute book. Please join us at this event to thank Jane and Ellis for their years of hard

work on behalf of our congregation.

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Help With Taxes

Now that Adar is upon us, tax time is just ahead. Therefore, I will break with the usual topics I write about and use this column to offer advice on taxes, which I hope you will find helpful.

Tip #1- Don't even think about not paying. The reason? This story from the Talmud (Baba Metzia 86a): Rabbah bar Nachmani led large retreats twice a year, before Passover and before Rosh Hashanah, each attended by 12,000 men. He said the purpose was to study the laws of the holidays. The problem: These retreats were at the exact same time that the king sent agents to collect tax. The king deduced that the real purpose of Rabbah's gatherings must be to avoid paying his men! So the king ordered Rabbah arrested. The royal jailer him from Pumbedita to Akra to Agma to Shichin to Tzerifa to Eina D'Mayim and back to Pumbedita again (that's really far!)

In Pumbedita the royal jailer was attacked by demons. Not knowing who this man was, Rabbah counseled how to save him. The jailer realized that only a man of Rabbah's stature could have figured out how to do that, but out of gratitude didn't arrest him and promised to keep his whereabouts a secret. Too bad it didn't work- when the royal jailer went back to the king empty handed, the king had him whipped and he divulged the secret. The king had Rabbah put into a cell in the palace behind a bolted door. He prayed to God for mercy and God caused one of the walls of his room to fall so he got out. But that was the end of his retreats. Moral of the story: The 12,000 students all had to pay back taxes with interest. So don't even think of being conveniently indisposed when April 15th comes around, even if Torah study is the reason.

Tip #2- Remember that synagogue donations are tax deductible and rabbis are always happy to help square things away with the IRS. Take this phone call for example: (identifying information has been deleted.)

IRS agent: Rabbi, I'm calling about a congregant of yours named _____.

Rabbi: Yes, he is a wonderful man.

IRS agent: He claims to have given a \$10,000 gift to your synagogue.

Rabbi: So?

IRS agent: So I need you to verify for me whether this is true.

Rabbi: Call back tomorrow.

IRS agent: Why?

Rabbi: Because by tomorrow it will be true.

Tip #3- Remember the Statute of Limitations.

A theoretical physicist named Morris A. Stein cheated on his taxes, saving himself a sum of over \$100,000. He didn't want to live with the anxiety of getting caught, so he took the money in cash and used a time machine he had developed to transport himself 7 years into the future, when the statute of limitations on his wrongdoing will have expired. He was arrested anyway, and the IRS argued that the state of limitations should not apply because he had not lived for seven years with fear of being caught. The judge ruled in his favor, writing in his opinion simply that a niche in time saves Stein.

Best wishes for a happy Purim (and tax) season.

Rabbi Levin

From the President

By Jane Avner

As my two terms as president of Lake Park Synagogue come to a close, I am tempted to look back on these four years to see what has been accomplished during that time. I will be very happy to turn over this leadership position to capable hands, as I feel that no one person should stay on too long. The life of the congregation has continued as it should, with holiday events such as Purim seudot, second seders, Shavuot night learning, an assortment of High Holiday cantors, and Chanukah parties; Bar and Bat mitzvot; and baby namings. We have had some lovely annual dinners --- last year's highly entertaining Comedy Sportz night honoring Jody, Harvey, Melanie and Dick stands out, but I also enjoyed the deep community-wide respect shown to Linda and Dan Bader, Lorraine Hoffmann and the UWM. Getting out that yearly calendar by Rosh Hashanah was a challenge, but we got there. And every week there were consistently good and provocative classes and divrei Torah, and finally, enjoyable participatory services.

I particularly enjoyed the moments when a congregant would come to me with an idea that we could turn into a program. Dr. Alfred Bader opened his gallery to us and we added a kosher wine tasting event. A portion of all proceeds supported the congregation. Alex Rubinshteyn brought a musical group to our community. The interest in local farming, brought together by the rabbi's interest in the environment, and hard work by Dena Abramowitz and Rachel Forman, allowed us to try out a synagogue-supported effort of Community Supported Agriculture. While we found that we didn't like having our porch as a vegetable drop-off point, it was important that we explored the issues, and learned about Wisconsin as a farm state and the Torah's commentary on respect for the earth. Most recently, an idea that Jody Hirsh suggested of inviting someone from history to dinner turned into three entertaining Shabbat dinners featuring Bruriah, Nachmanides, and Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai. I could cite many other examples.

Participation is vital in a small synagogue. Each person is important. Thank you to everyone who has made my presidency enjoyable with your advice and assistance. As it is written, "A community is too heavy for anyone to carry alone." – Devarim Rabbah 1:10

Mishloach Manot Cards



Consider sending beautiful Purim greeting cards to far away relatives in addition to or instead of food items when food items are not practical to send. Available from the Lake Park Synagogue office at the low cost of 5 for \$10 or \$3/ each. All proceeds benefit the synagogue.

Tuesday Evening Learning

With Rabbi Levin
All are welcome * No charge

Tuesday, February 28th 7PM

“!?!@!!”- Swearing

If sticks and stones can break my bones but words can never harm me, what’s so bad about swearing? Does saying swear words break the commandment of taking God’s name in vain? Does Jewish law say that it is forbidden to swear?



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Tuesday, March 6th 7PM

Haman’s Ten Sons

Traditionally the megilla reader recites the list of Haman’s ten sons in one breath. Why? And what exactly happened to these ten? Three verses after they are listed as dead, Esther again petitions the king that they be put to death! In this class we will study the end of the megilla in depth to get a clearer picture of exactly what went on in Shushan.

Did You Know?



Rabbi Levin’s Tuesday evening classes are recorded and posted on the LPS website, www.lakeparksynagogue.org. You can listen online, or download and burn to an audio cd or transfer to an iPod.



Purim

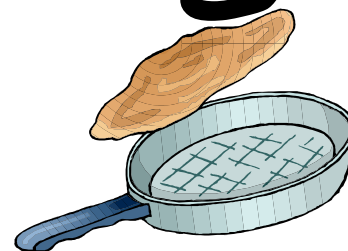
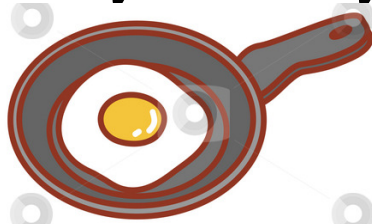
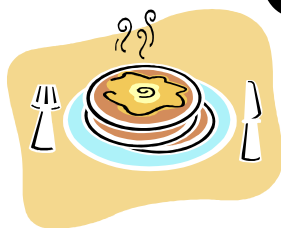


Schedule:
Wednesday, March 7th
Megilla reading 6:00 PM
Read by Dr. Sam Blumenthal

Thursday, March 8th
Shacharit 6:30 AM
Purim Seudah 5 PM

Purim Seudah

Breakfast for Dinner

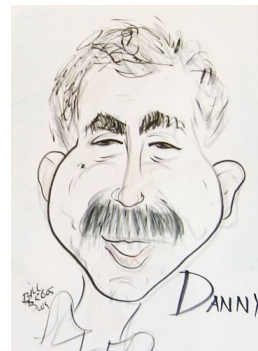


At the Purim seudah, we will have breakfast for dinner! Plus, get your

caricature drawn by Bill Begos to take home as a souvenir.

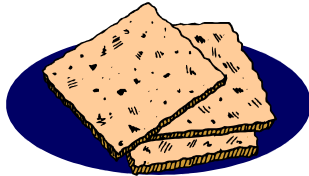
Suggested donation \$10/ person. Please call the office at 414-962-5508 or email rabbi@lakeparksynagogue.org to let us know you're coming so we'll know how many pancakes to put on the griddle. **The Purim Seudah will be Thursday, March 8th at 5 PM.**

Bill Begos has performed as a caricaturist and comedian for over 17 years all around Wisconsin and the Midwest. He will draw caricatures and perform his show 'caricatures and comedy.' Below are samples of his work (Bob Uecker is on the left!):

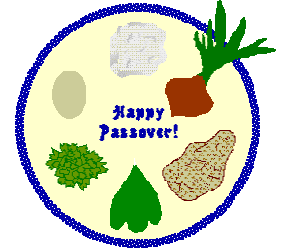


Second Seder at LPS

Saturday night, April 7th– Second night of Passover



Seder activities begin at 7PM



Come join us to celebrate the holiday with a fun, traditional seder. We will ask the four questions and relive the Exodus from Egypt with stories and activities for adults and children. Enjoy a delicious Kosher for Passover meal.

Rabbi Levin’s Magical Signs and Wonders will accompany the ten plagues. . .

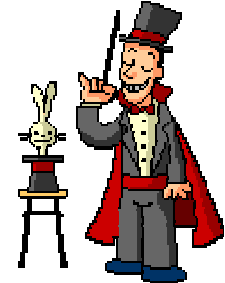
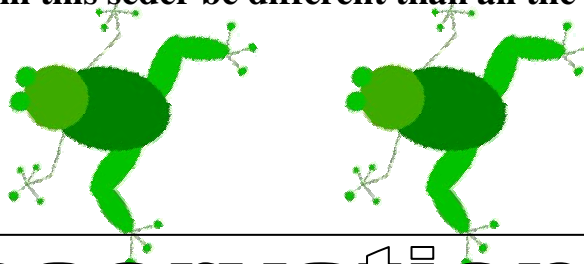
In past years the wine in Elijah’s cup really did disappear.

A drop of water added to an ancient Egyptian vase really turned to blood. . .

The Rabbi levitated in the air.



How will this seder be different than all the rest?



Reservations

Please also extend this invitation to people who are not members of our congregation.

Name: _____

Adults @ \$30 _____

Phone: _____

Children @\$15 _____

E-mail: _____

Total \$_____ (Max \$75/ family)

____ Please call and discuss how my family can participate.

Reservations as far in advance as possible are appreciated.

A word about money - No one should not come because of cost. If this cost is a hardship please pay only what you are able.

Passover Schedule

Friday, April 6th– Ta’anit Bechorot

Fast of the first born

Shacharit 7 AM

Dr. Jay Beder and Rabbi Levin will celebrate a siyum on Masechet Sotah followed by refreshments.

Last time to eat chametz is 10:44 AM

Candle lighting 7:18 PM

Mincha followed by Ma’ariv 7:20 PM

First Seder

Shabbat, April 7th- Passover I

Shacharit 9 AM

2nd Seder at LPS begins at 7 PM

Light candles after 8:07 PM

Sunday, April 8th– Passover II

Shacharit 9 AM

Mincha 7:10 PM

Havdallah 8:08 PM

Thursday April 12th

Mincha 7:00 PM

Candle Lighting 7:13 PM

Friday, April 13th- 7th day of Pesach

Shacharit 9 AM

Mincha 7:20 PM

Candle Lighting 7:14 PM

Shabbat, April 14th– Final day of Pesach

Shacharit 9AM

Shir Hashirim 10:15 AM

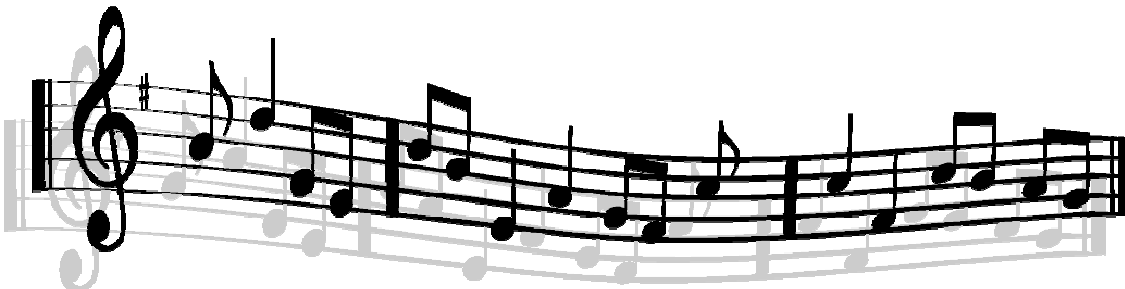
Yizkor 11AM

Mincha 7:15 PM

Havdallah 8:15 PM

Shir Hashirim

This year Shir Hashirim, the song of songs, will be read on the final day of Passover by women and men who have been preparing to chant this book in the festive melody of the holiday. Join us for this very special reading on Shabbat, April 14th.



The Greatest Accolade

Given to Mordechai

By Rabbi Yissochar Frand
From www.torah.org

The last pasuk [verse] in the Megilla reads "For Mordechai, the Yehudi, was viceroy to King Ahashuerus; he was a great man among the Jews, and found favor with the multitude of his brothers (ratzui l'rov echav); he sought the good of his people and spoke with peace to all his posterity. (v'dover shalom l'chol zar'oh)" [Esther 10:3]

The Ibn Ezra makes two very interesting comments on this pasuk. He says regarding the phrase "he found favor with the multitude (literally the majority) of his brothers," that because of jealousy, a person cannot find favor with everyone. It is impossible to be perfectly popular.

Then the Ibn Ezra comments on the buildup of praises that we have in the pasuk. The concluding, and seemingly greatest praise is that "he spoke with peace to all his posterity." The Ibn Ezra comments that this means he was on good terms with all his children and grandchildren.

This seems anti-climactic. Is this the greatest thing we can find to say about Mordechai HaYehudi? The Ibn Ezra says this is indeed a great praise.

Think of all the children and grandchildren that Mordechai had. Did each one turn out exactly like Mordechai would have wanted? If Mordechai would have wanted all his children and grandchildren to become Torah scholars, do we expect that is the way it would have worked out? Or, if he wanted them all to be expert businesspersons, do we expect that is the way it would turn out? Maybe there would be a black sheep in the family that became a scholar!

And yet, he spoke in peace to all descendants. He was able to maintain a peaceful relationship with all his children and all his grandchildren. This, the Ibn Ezra tells us, is a great thing. Because of the natural fear that children have towards parents, it is not always true that there is a loving relationship between parents and children. Therefore if Mordechai could maintain such a relationship, this is indeed the highest accolade that the Torah can offer him.

I think this is a great ethical lesson for us. We try to raise children, and we have certain ideals and standards of how we would like our children to be. It does not always turn out like that. But we should always strive to maintain a relationship where we can, at least, speak peacefully with all our offspring

Thank You

For These Donations. . .

In honor of Ben Werner's Bar Mitzvah

Tamar and Jakob Loewenberg
Gloria and Leonard Parker
Shirley Levy
Jane and Ellis Avner

In honor of Isabel and Alfred Bader's 30th wedding anniversary

Lorrain Hoffmann
Gloria and Leonard Parker

In memory of Deena Cheplowitz's father

Lorrain Hoffmann
Gloria and Leonard Parker

Peggy Goodman- Happy Chanukah to Lorraine
Hoffmann and all of LPS

Gloria and Leonard Parker- In honor of Etan
Fine's Bar Mitzvah

Irma and Howard Fiedler-

In memory of Stanley Cohen's sister
In memory of Hedda Rudoff's husband

Annelies Gruen- In memory of Harri Hoffmann

Marcia Avner and Wyman Spano- In honor of
Jane and Ellis Avner

Steve Werner and Family-

In honor of Rabbi Jay and Rita
Brickman's 60th wedding anniversary.
In memory of Martin Suchoki's wife
Marie Ann.

Shirley Weinstein

Ed Levy
Harvey Altshull
Anonymous

For Sponsoring These Kiddushes. . .

Jan. 14 Melanie and Russ Wasserman family In honor of Aden's 6th birthday

Jan. 21 Jakob and Tamar Loewenberg In honor of Jakob's father's yahrzeit

Jan. 28 Rabbi Samuels In honor of his birthday

Feb. 11 Rivkie Bolter In honor of her birthday

Feb. 18 Neil Moss In honor of his daughter Shayna's birthday

köszönöm !תודה *dékuji*

mahalo 고맙습니다

thank you

merci 谢谢 *danke*

Ευχαριστώ شڪرا

どうもありがとう *gracias*



Upcoming Yahrtszeits

Adar (Feb 24-March 23)

- 12 Mildred Pevnick- mother of Steven Pevnick
- 17 Yankel Bayer, Ephraim Yaakov ben Avraham-uncle of Mory Blumenfeld
- 19 Meta Goldschmidt, Miriam bat Abraham- grandmother of Lorraine Hoffmann
- 21 Josef Joshua ben Mordecai v Sarah- father of Ken Kapp
- 22 HaRav Shmuel Hillel Ben Aryeh Leib HaKohen- grandfather of Shirley Weinstein
- 22 Pinchas ben Yirmiyahu (Grafstein)- father of Charlotte Blumenfeld
- 23 Harold Borkowf, Yisroel Zvi ben Ephraim Moshe- husband of Anne Borkowf
- 27 Leah bat Meier- grandmother of Lorraine Hoffmann
- 29 Lea Bat Yehuda- mother of Juda Jona
- 29 Shoshana bas Shimon- mother of Rhoda Parsons

Nisan (March 24-April 22)

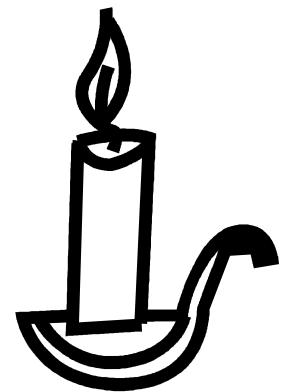
- 8 Harold Hirsh- father of Jody Hirsh
- 16 Shimon ben Yankel v'Friedl- father of Rachel Forman
- 17 Yitzchok Ben Shlomo- father of Nita Corre
- 30 Louis Hoffmann, Eliezer ben Tzvi- grandfather of Lorraine Hoffmann

Iyar (April 23-May 21)

- 4 Rifka Bas Yoseph- mother of Edith Kahn
- 5 Inez Ladenson- mother of Robert Ladenson
- 6 Yisroel ben Dovid (Arthur M. Sweet)- father of Nancy Thomadsen
- 6 Zahava bat Moshe v' Osnat- mother of Boaz Avital
- 7 Herta Hoffmann, Raisa bat Shlomo- mother of Lorraine Hoffmann
- 15 Chaim Abramowitz, Chaim Yitzhak Ben Kalman- father of Dena Abramowitz
- 17 Yaakov ben Avrohom- father of Alan Corré
- 19 Yehuda ben Tzvi, J.George Adashko- father of Jane Avner
- 25 Shayndel Chana Bas Shmuel Zorach- mother of Morry Blumenfeld

Sivan (May 22-June 20)

- 5 Channa bat Menachem- sister of Juda Jona
- 12 Albert Nankin, Eliyoho Ben Aharon HaKohen- father of Armin Nankin
- 12 Murray Krautheimer- uncle of Irma Fiedler
- 14 Leo Pevnick, Yehuda Leib ben Aharon- father of Steve Pevnick
- 14 Yacov ben Mordechai- father of Leonard Parker
- 17 Malka bat Yaakov v Hanna- mother of Ken Kapp
- 19 Irving Fiedler, Yitzchok ben Chayim- father of Howard Fiedler
- 25 Pinhas Kupfer, Pinhas ben Avrohom- father of Gaby and Alex Kupfer
- 29 Hannah bat Natan- mother of Leonard Parker



Sale of Chametz

I, _____, appoint Rabbi Levin to act on my behalf to sell all chametz possessed by me knowingly and unknowingly as defined by Torah and Rabbinic law. The sale will commence on or before Friday, the 14th of Nissan 5772 (April 6th 2012.) Also included: all sorts of Chametz mixtures, chametz that tends to harden and adhere to the inside surface of pots pans, cooking utensils and tableware, all animals and livestock which consume chametz and chametz mixtures. Also any chametz in transit that would be delivered to me during the above specified period. I also authorize Rabbi Levin to lease all my premises in which chametz owned by me may be found. These premises are:

Home address: _____

Other addresses where I store chametz: _____

I grant Rabbi Levin authority to delegate any or all of the above powers to any person or persons he shall select to sell my chametz and to lease my property where my chametz is stored. These powers shall conform with all Torah laws and rabbinic laws as well as the laws of Wisconsin.

Date

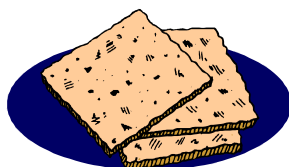
Signature

___ I/We are on the premises throughout Pesach

Or

Access to the premises for purposes of removal of chametz can be obtained by:

This form should be returned to Rabbi Levin in person at which time a legally binding kinyan will be made. If that is not possible the form may be mailed, faxed to the synagogue office (414) 964-2837, or emailed. **All chametz must be sold before the morning of April 6th.**

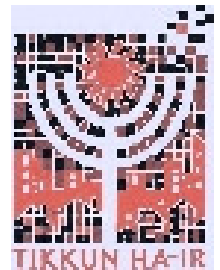


3207 N Hackett
Milwaukee WI 53211



Tikkun Ha-Ir Brunch'n Learn

Voices Against Hunger



Sunday, March 11th at 9:30AM Tikkun Ha-ir will hold a brunch'n learn titled "Voices Against Hunger" at Lake Park Synagogue. Mary Ryan, Hunger Task Force Organizer, will discuss current strategies and actions in the fight against hunger in the greater Milwaukee area. Pam Frydman-Roza and Rabbi Levin will offer a Jewish perspective on this crisis.

In 2011, Tikkun Ha-Ir collected and distributed 6500 pounds of fresh produce to food banks, pantries and meal sites. This program is the kick off for the 2012 Surplus Harvest project. Participants are encouraged to bring fresh produce to be given to Hunger Task Force.