

Little Known Passover Facts

We all know about Passover, that holiday when we Jews whip out our flat, cracker-like matzah, talk about the massive exodus from Egypt, and drink a whole lot of Manischewitz wine. As it happens, though, there are a few other things you might want to know about Passover! Here are some facts about the holiday that you probably never knew:

Passover is the oldest holiday of all Jewish holidays. The very first Passover was celebrated in Egypt itself more than 3,300 years ago and marked the first holiday the Jews ever celebrated. The Jews of the time were commanded to bring the first Paschal offering, continuously brought on Passover until the destruction of the second Temple – but today, the holiday is still celebrated across the world.

The traditional seder plate is a circular plate with six spots on it, each to hold a different symbolic food to be eaten during the Passover meal. In recent years, a new tradition has begun to form – a seder plate with seven spots instead of six. The new seventh food? An orange. Professor Susannah Heschel introduced this practice in the 1980s to signify support of and solidarity with gay Jews and other marginalized peoples. The orange is said to signify fruitfulness, and the action of spitting out the seeds represents “spitting out” hate and discrimination in our communities.

On Passover 2,000 years ago, a nation of Jews escaped Egypt through the splitting of the Red Sea. On Passover 149 years ago, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated at Ford’s Theatre in Washington, D.C. Many Jewish Americans were in synagogue at the time of the assassination, both to observe Passover and to celebrate the end of the Civil War, and the American Jewish Historical Society notes that synagogue bimahs “were quickly draped in black and, instead of Passover melodies, the congregations chanted Yom Kippur hymns.”

The four cups of wine symbolize the four stages of redemption. Others interpret the cups to be representative of the four matriarchs of Israel.

The most popular haggadah in the United States in the first quarter of the 20th century was arranged, edited and translated by a woman. Before feminism, before Maxwell House, there was Lillie Goldsmith Cowen. Mrs. Philip Cowen, as she preferred to be called, was the wife of the first publisher of the Jewish weekly newspaper American Hebrew. She worked with him side by side, editing and typesetting that publication from the time they married in 1887 until his retirement in 1906. In 1904, she published the Cowen Haggadah, the first mass-produced adaptation of the haggadah in modern American vernacular. Hundreds of thousands of copies were sold all over the world and were distributed to American Jewish servicemen in both World Wars.

More information like this can be found by Googling, “Interesting Passover facts.”



B'er Chayim Bulletin

107 Union Street
Cumberland, Md. 21502
301-722-5688
www.berchayim.org

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From the Rabbi

We are all searching and looking for something. That we do the ritual of bedikat chametz, searching out all the leaven in one's home and burning it up, is both literal and metaphorical. This pre-Passover ritual is also an opportunity to search in our hearts and sweep out the leftover crumbs of pain, constriction, or blindness.

At times we search and we come up with nothing. Our hearts may be fully open, but what is in them is not completely clear to us. At times like those we turn to God and offer the search instead of the crumbs. And this is paralleled in the ritual by the following declaration said before and after the actual burning of the chametz:

"Any chametz which is in my possession which I did or did not see, which I did or did not remove, nor know about, shall be nullified and become ownerless, like the dust of the earth."

Words are powerful, and setting our intention to try our best, is an important one. Sometimes we try and don't succeed, but our best efforts are worth something, too.

I hope you will try this ritual this year if you have never done it before. Or if you do it every year, may it be a meaningful experience that touches even to your innermost parts. It usually appears on the first page of a Haggadah, or you can search online.

A joyous and meaningful Pesach to you and your family!

Rabbi Elyssa Auster



Rabbi Elyssa is available to meet with people while she is in town. If you would like to schedule a meeting, please email her directly at: rabbiauster@gmail.com

DONATIONS

Yahrzeits

Donor

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Robin Redding

Michael A Granet

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Aaron & Adam

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Fred Klein

Tamar Clarke

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Passover Social Justice

Passover serves as a painful reminder that the Jewish people were seen as strangers in the land of Egypt and spent 40 long years of wandering in the wilderness without a home. These elements of the Passover story remind us of current issues of immigration and refugee concerns, and the memory of being displaced instills in us a desire to eradicate homelessness in the modern era.

There are many ways to incorporate social justice issues into your seder and your celebration of Passover. Some include donating your chametz, updating your seder plate to include new symbols such as an orange, potato, or fair trade cacao beans or chocolate.

You can find out more ways to incorporate social justice into your Passover by going to this site - <http://www.reformjudaism.org/passover-social-justice-guide>.

Tzedakah

President's Thoughts

I'm very pleased to announce that we have signed an employment agreement with Cantor Mark Perman. Everyone who attended services, havdalah & his presentation of Broadway to Bimah had very favorable comments. His plans are to settle in the Cumberland area in mid-July. My thanks to all who conducted our lay-lead services on weeks we did not have visiting leaders. I think we've all realized what we can accomplish. There are still a few more Shabbats for which we need leaders until Cantor Perman will be here. Please contact me for available dates.

Elsewhere in this bulletin is information about our annual Community Seder. I hope that those who don't have other plans can join us at B'er Chayim for a continuation of a lovely tradition.

Gayle & I wish everyone a happy & healthy Passover.

*Shalom,
Lee Schwartz*



Saturdays with Stephanie

Spring has brought us warmer weather, beautiful flowers, and the joyous holidays of the season. I hope you enjoyed celebrating Purim and are looking forward to a sweet Passover.

In preparation for our family Seders, we will spend the morning of April 9th sharing Passover songs. I'll bring a collection of my favorites and you are welcome to bring yours as well! If your Seder doesn't include much singing, please come and get some ideas. Whatever your tradition, I hope you'll share with us on the 9th.

Looking ahead, my final visit will be the weekend of May 13 and 14. That Saturday we will take a tour through the new High Holy Day machzor in the morning, enjoy lunch together, and finish our day together with a Blessing of the Animals in a local park. Whether you come to study, to eat, or to share a blessing with your beloved pet, I hope you'll mark your calendar and join us on May 14.

*L'shalom,
Stephanie*

stephweishaar@gmail.com

New Tallit and Kipah Rack

During the renovation of our historic building some large pieces of Hemlock ceiling joists had to be removed from the choir loft area in order to make room for the elevator shaft. This wood was original to the building, and so was kept, with the thought that it could be used for something else. After much discussion, Arnold d'Epagnier, a local furniture maker/artist was commissioned to make a tallit and kipah rack from the saved wood. The rack is now complete and sits just outside the elevator in the lobby of the sanctuary. It is tall enough that the tallit do not drag on the floor and the kipot are stored neatly on the top. It is truly a beautiful addition to our building! The rack was donated by Doug Schwab and betsey Hurwitz-Schwab. Doug was inspired and excited to be part of the renovation and wanted to commemorate the process. Here are some pictures.



April 2016

Friday, April 1	7:00 pm	Congregation Meeting to Vote on Rabbi/ Cantor Perman's appointment
	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service Leaders - Deb Litman & Elena Manasse Oneg - Marlene Sallerson
Friday, April 8	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service Leader - Cantor Stephanie Weishaar Oneg - Irma Dezen and Anita Bauer
Saturday, April 9	10:00 am	Passover Songs with Cantor Weishaar
Wednesday, April 13	6:30 pm	Mahjong - Temple
Friday, April 15	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service Leaders - TBD Oneg - Community Oneg
Monday, April 18	7:00 pm	Board meeting
Friday, April 22		Passover First Seder NO SHABBAT SERVICES
Saturday, April 23	6:00 pm	Community Seder (see flyer next page) Temple
Friday, April 29	7:30 pm	Erebe Shabbat Services Rabbi Elyssa Auster
Saturday, April 30	9:30 am - 11:00 am	Shabbat Morning Service with Torah reading & Yizkor - Rabbi Auster
	11:00am - 11:45 am	Passover Yoga - Rabbi Auster





B'er Chayim Temple Second Night Community Seder

Saturday, April 23, 2016

Seder Service to begin at 6:00 pm

Traditional four course meal

Entrée (select one)

Roast Chicken

Oven Braised Brisket

Glazed Salmon

\$30.00 per adult

College Students - \$20.00

Children - 11 and up - \$5.00

Children - ages 10 and under - free



Reservations are required

Send your check w/entrée selection by April 15th to Tamar Clarke

811 Memorial Avenue, Cumberland, MD 21502

Your check is your reservation (cks payable to B'er Chayim Temple)



...We Remember

Yahrzeits for week ending

April 2, 2016/23 Adar II 5776

Maxine Rosenbaum
Clara Hersch
Sara Gottlieb
Abraham Arch
Lawrence I. Marks
Stella Wertheimer
Dorothy Edna Olin
Barnett Beneman
Frederick J. Kaplon
Rae Schindler

Yahrzeits for week ending

April 9, 2016/1 Nissan 5776

John F. Markley
Sara Goodman
Kenneth Rubenstein
Dewey Brumberg
Florence Kline
Walter Brock
Eva S. Weisman
Mollie Baron
Elkano Mayer Gerson
Helen M. Kaplon
Gary Atkinson Snow
Nathan Friedland
Hyman Katzer
Louise Gershbach Martin
Simon Rosenbaum
Rose L. Myers
Sidney Nobel
Ruth Nobel

***As long as we live, they too will live;
for they are now a part of us;
as we remember them.***



Yahrzeits for week ending

April 16, 2016/8 Nissan 5776

Louis Schwartz
Joseph Mazzucca
Ira Lippel
Rose R. Luddeke
Charlotte Becker
Nathan Boorda
Eva Kleeman
Retta Luddeke
Arthur Rosenau
Reuben Lichtenstein
Elizabeth Weisman

Yahrzeits for week ending

April 23, 2016/15 Nissan 5776

Stacia Miller
Isaac H. Rosenberg
Susan C. Hurwitz
Leo Isaacs
Ben F. Rubel
Walter Schmitt
Nathan Dantzic
Louis Bernstein
Alberta Friedland Mosler
Rabbi Edwin Schoffman
Samuel Dantzic
Louis Londe
Jack Minkelgreen
Betty White

Yahrzeits for week ending

April 30, 2016/22 Nissan 5776

Sol Glicksman
Nathaniel Isaacs
Cora Shapiro
Ben Schindler
Barney Mandell
Aryeh Leib Bernstein
Rae Pariser
Stuart Schreiber
Morris Mandell

Directory: Whom To Call

Rabbi Elyssa Auster rabbiauster@gmail.com

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Board Trustees

Shelly Smith	Elena Manasse
Marlene Sallerson	Debby Schaaf Gregg Schaaf

Ways In Which You Can Help B'er Chayim

Endowment Fund

Western Wall Memorial outside of sanctuary
Contact Treasurer Gayle Griffith for more information.

Yahrzeit Plaques

Cost of plaque - \$250
Preparation of plaque - about 1 month
Contact Gayle Griffith for more information

Tree of Life/Memory Leaves

Cost of leaf - \$40, which includes engraving
preparation of leaf - about 2 weeks
Contact Gayle Griffith for more information

Building Fund

Contributions of any amount may be made and may be given for general building use, or a specific building project (subject to Board approval).
Contact Debbie Lang for more information

Jane & Leonard Schwab Jewish Life Fund

This fund will be used to enhance Jewish life in the B'er Chayim community. Please make checks payable to the "Jane & Leonard Schwab Jewish Life Fund" and send them to B'er Chayim.

Hadassah

Cards and certificates for all occasions
Contact Beshie Mandell for more information

