

A Very Special Purim at CEEW

By Adrian Richfield

On Sunday, March 24, CEEW celebrated Purim with the Sunday school and CEEW members participating and enjoying a morning of fun and games, making hamantaschen and a very modern super heroes Purim spiel with a cast of characters!

A special event was the reading of the Megillah (Book of Esther) with a new scroll that was received by CEEW from another temple that was combining facilities and had an

extra scroll. This was all thanks to Mark Levy who heard about the possibility of our getting this special scroll.



Be sure to ask to see it some time. Cantor and several students chanted from parts of the Megillah.

After the morning fun and Purim spiel, everyone went back downstairs to get their Purim bags, exchange hamantaschen with a friend along with assembling the shalach manot (Purim basket).

Thanks to Carrie Barbakoff along with Cantor Levson, the Sunday school teachers and other volunteers who made this a truly awesome Purim event. ✨

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Save the date! Community Shlichah Noa Gerassi will be at CEEW for a Special Shabbat presentation after services on Friday, May 31.



Congratulations to our March 2024 b'nei mitzvot, Jonah Sulman and Julia Christian. We are so proud of you!



Photos contributed by Laurie Schwartz.



CEEW's Community Passover Seder will be held on Tuesday, April 23 at 5 pm.
See page 6 for your reservation form, which is due before April 9.

CEEW News Briefs

April 7 Adult Education Program

Join our CEEW community for a special adult education program on Sunday, April 7th. It will be a "bring your own lunch" starting at 12:15 p.m. and then delicious home-made desserts at 12:45. We will have time to eat, mingle, and socialize among each other as we meet Dr. Eric Pullin. The program will start at 1 p.m. Come for lunch and/or dessert or just for the program!

Dr. Pullin, a professor at Carthage College, will speak on the topic of "Jews in India." His talk on current events will include the closer relationship between India and Israel in the last decade.

Come for an educational and learning experience at CEEW. Friends and family members are welcome at this event.

Mazel Tov



Arlene and Peter Shelley will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on April 2! Mazel tov to both of them from everyone at Congregation Emanu-El.

Mitzvah Rides

There are times when many of us need help getting to and from medical appointments, the drug-store, or even temple. With that in mind, we are launching a new mitzvah program to aid those in need of a ride.

If you are willing to provide a ride, please let Phil Schuman know. Phil may be contacted by email at philschuman@prodigy.net or by phone at 262-367-6719. Once we have a list of volunteers, you may call Phil at least three days before your appointment to request a ride.

We cannot guarantee assistance, but Phil will do what he can to accommodate your request. Contact CEEW President Laurie Schwartz at president@waukeshatemple.org with any questions about the program.

Input Sought on Bulletin

CEEW has published a monthly bulletin for years. In our crazy, fast paced, electronic world are people taking the time to read it? Is the information from our weekly 'blasts' sufficient?

Many congregations have either reduced the number of publications per year or discontinued this type of publication all together. The CEEW board is looking for your input. Should it be discontinued? Is it time to do this? Should it be published quarterly or bimonthly? What do you think? We need some input from our members as we consider changes for our bulletin's monthly publication.

Please contact either President Laurie Schwartz at president@waukeshatemple.org or Vice President Mark Levy at markallanlevy@yahoo.com with your thoughts and ideas about the bulletin sometime in the next few weeks. Your input is needed and appreciated. ☆



“I truly believe that the security of our future, as a People and as a country, relies on the strength we possess when united.”

— former IDF Chief of Staff Beni Gantz

Two things at once

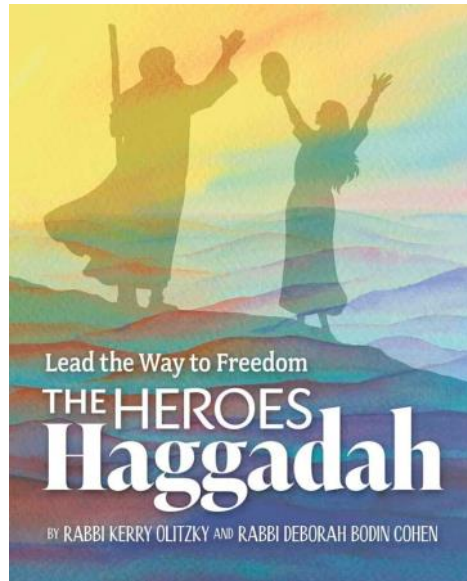
My thanks to everyone who helped make our Purim celebration last month... “Super!” From the folks who helped to set up and run the Purim carnival games, our *Hamentaschen* bakers and the *Shalach Manot* making crew, our *Megillah* readers and Purim shpiel actors, and to everyone else who attended, a wonderful time was had by all! My special thanks once again to Congregation Melrose B’nai Israel Emanu-El who generously bequeathed their beautiful *Megillat Esther* scroll to CEEW.

Now that Purim is over, our thoughts turn to the most important story for our people, *Pesach* (Passover). Fun fact: The most printed Jewish book in the world is the *TaNakh*, the Hebrew Bible. The second most printed Jewish book in the world? The Passover *Haggadah*! I love looking at different *Haggadot* and seeing the various ways this ancient/new story is interpreted through creative lenses.

This year our CEEW Religious School will be using a newly published edition, *The Heroes Haggadah*, which intersperses stories of ancient and modern Jewish heroes with the tradi-

Cantor’s Column

By Cantor Martin Levson, CEEW Sole/Soul Spiritual Leader



tional *Seder* structure. As we read in every edition of the *Haggadah*, “In every generation, one should look upon themselves as if they personally went forth from Egypt.” The story of the journey from slavery to freedom is simultaneously ancient and contemporary, and every year different parts of the *Seder* invite my attention and consideration.

This year I cannot help but be drawn to an action we perform during the *Maggid*, the telling of the story. As

we recount the Ten Plagues that were inflicted upon Egypt, we say the name of each plague out loud and remove a drop of wine (or grape juice) from our glass before we drink the second cup. We acknowledge that even during our celebration of becoming free, we are saddened by the pain and suffering endured by the Egyptians (our enslavers!) because of Pharaoh’s stubbornness.

We intentionally reduce our joy (represented by the wine or grape juice) out of empathy. The “Baskin Haggadah” which we use at our 2nd night Community Seder includes a *Midrash* found in the Talmud (Megillah 10b and Sanhedrin 39b): When we crossed the Sea of Reeds and broke out into song and dance, the angels were about to break into song as well when God silenced them by asking, “My creatures are perishing, and you sing praises?”

The lesson of this part of the *Seder* and the accompanying *Midrash* are clear: We are commanded to cele-

Continued on next page



Save the dates! Rylan Ecker's bar mitzvah is June 1;
Ava Koszarek's bat mitzvah is June 15; Sxdni Small's b'mitzvah is June 22.

Cantor's column continued

brate our freedom, but we must not rejoice in the suffering of our enemies. Following the horrific and brutal massacre of October 7, our brothers and sisters in the Land of Israel have been at war with Hamas, an enemy that desires our destruction.

I firmly believe in the right (and the need) for Israel to defend itself, AND at the same time I grieve for the loss of Palestinian lives and the devastation that has occurred in Gaza.

Holding these two seemingly contradictory ideas in our minds simultaneously is a quintessentially Jewish thing. Over and over in the Talmud we read the phrase "*Eilu v'eilu divrey Elohim chayim*," "These AND these are the words of the Living God."

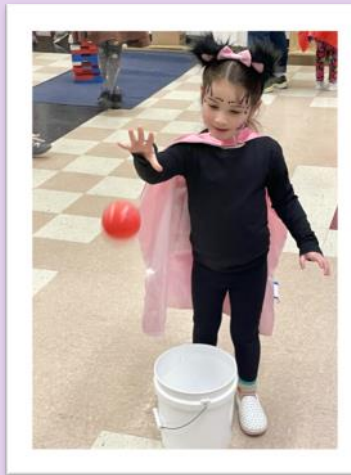
Sheri, Kailin, Liz, and I wish everyone a *Ziessn Peasch*, a sweet Passover. *Chag Sameyach*, and Happy Matzah Munching! ☆



Scenes from a Carnival



Chag sameach Purim!
CEEW's kids and families had a great time playing games at this year's Purim Carnival and fixing custom hamantaschen to give away to others after the shpiel.





“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for people to dwell together in unity!” — Psalm 133:1

Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha Community Seder

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 - 5:00 p.m.
at Chenequa Country Club

Menu:

Seder foods, including Hard Boiled Egg; Gefilte Fish
Matzo Ball Soup

Chicken, Potatoes, and Vegetables

Pot Luck Dessert Table** Coffee and Tea

Cost: \$55 for adults; \$30 for children ages 12 and under (Temple members)
\$60 for adults; \$35 for children ages 12 and under (non-members of Temple)

**Please bring a Kosher-for-Passover dessert to share.

In lieu of a dessert, a donation of \$15 to cover
the cost of matzo and wine can be substituted.

Your check is your reservation. No reservations will be accepted without payment.

Reservation deadline is April 9, 2024

The reservation price remains the same as for last year's seder; therefore, we are able to maintain a break-even price for the meal. As always, we don't want affordability to prevent members from attending; please contact President Laurie Schwartz for more information. We ask those who can make contributions to the Mensch fund to please do so, and thank our members for their continuing generosity.



Return this form with your payment.



2024 Community Seder Reservation Form

RESERVATION DEADLINE: April 9. Make checks payable to CEEW. Write "SEDER" in memo line.

Name: _____ Total number attending: _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Adult meals (member): _____ @ \$55 each = \$ _____

Children's meals (member): _____ @ \$30 each = \$ _____

Adult meals (non-member): _____ @ \$60 each = \$ _____

Children's meals (non-member): _____ @ \$35 each = \$ _____

Donations For Matzo/Wine in lieu of dessert \$15.00 \$ _____

Mensch donation (optional) \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Deadline for reservations is April 9. Your check is your reservation. Payment is non-refundable.

Send reservations to the temple, 830 W. Moreland Blvd., Waukesha WI 53188, attention Laurie Schwartz. Questions? Contact Laurie Schwartz at 303-888-5137 or president@waukeshatemple.org



There will be no religious school sessions on April 21 or April 28.

CEEW Board Meeting: March 2024

By Pati Allen Brickman

D'var Torah and Spiritual Leader's Report by Cantor Levson: The Association of Waukesha Congregations met last month, and everyone was supportive of the situation in Israel. They pledged support if any antisemitic events occur. Purim this year is Sunday, March 24, with a 9:30 Carnival and making of shalach manot and Hamantaschen. Comic book superheroes will be the theme of the shpiel. Cantor continues to be surprised how little is known about Purim, particularly by adults and about the Megillah of Esther. There are some very adult themes, such as anti-semitism (even before there was Christianity) and Haman's plan for genocide. We recently received a Megillah scroll from a conservative temple in Philadelphia that is closing.

Education Director Report by Carrie Barbakoff: See Report for full details. Ava and Rylan (and Jennifer Ecker) went with 18 other students and 10 other parents and teachers, for a field trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. Students learned about the atrocities of the Shoah, bearing witness to the millions of lives lost at that time. Their experience taught them about the importance of remembering the past, and more poignant now than ever, they also learned about their responsibility to stand up against hate. Despite the difficult content of their learning, students also were inspired by the stories of bravery and hope they heard. These students left the museum with a deeper understanding of history and a determination to make the world a better place, especially as they become Jewish adults.



President's Report by Laurie Schwartz:

Personnel update: We reached our goal and have raised \$47,000.00 for the spiritual leader fund. Passover registration forms have been published in the weekly Blast.

Treasurer/Financial Report by Alan Meyers: The Tzedakah box has \$63 to be donated to the Waukesha Food Pantry. We need to start thinking about the budget for next year as we need to approve it before the June annual meeting. For a full report, contact Alan Meyers.

Sisterhood Report by Denise Stodola: The food drive was a great success. The community was very generous with 270 pounds of food collected and donated to the Waukesha Food Pantry. The Railing for the bema is going through the approval process. April 2 beading program will be at Eclectica 21420 W Greenfield Ave, New Berlin, WI 53146. Barb Zacher will be providing treats. The cost of projects is between \$15.00 and \$60.00 depending on the one you choose to do. So far, we have no submissions for camp scholarships of up to \$500. Please let Karen Levy know if you know of a sisterhood member in need of a sunshine card.



"I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented." — Elie Wiesel

Board Meeting, continued

Committee Reports

Facilities and Security by Mark Levy and Bernie Sandler:

- a. Dorado Lawn Seasonal Services will now do lawn treatment and possibly some weeding. We need to have a service day sometime in April to do weeding and mulching. We will be looking for volunteers to help.
- b. The fire inspector came, and all issues have been fixed.
- c. Two shutoff water valves were found to be 'frozen open' and will be replaced.
- d. The South rooftop lightbulb needs to be replaced.
- e. Mark and Bernie have had meetings with three suppliers to obtain proposals to replace/update our 20-year-old HVAC system and components, decisions are TBD.

New Business - Laurie Schwartz:

B'nai Mitzvot: The handbook will now include a Quick Start Guide section, in particular describing how to prepare. We have established a volunteer role to act as a coordinator/maven to help the families facilitate the event. Ann

Meyers volunteered to be the first maven to get the position started.

Yom Ha'atzmaut, Independence Day of Israel: Ann Meyers and Sandy Villa are working on April 28 on the grounds of the JCC. We encourage people to attend.

Old Business - Laurie Schwartz:

Bulletin: The next Bulletin will feature a discussion about how frequently to publish the Bulletin and we will then determine if we might publish it quarterly or so. The weekly Blast may be a more convenient communication with our congregation.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Pati Allen Brickman, Secretary to the Board. Full reports are available from each committee chair. The next board meeting will be held Monday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m. ☆





Yiddish of the month: *Heimish* meaning “down to earth.”

— contributed by Marsha Fensin

Small points of joy

President’s Letter

In every 19 year lunar-solar cycle of the Jewish calendar, we have seven years in which an additional lunar month is inserted. This extra month in the leap year is known as Adar II. Adar II ends in 2024 on Monday, April 8.

The Rabbis stated that from the day Adar starts we are suppose to intensify our feelings of joy, faith and optimism. We all enjoyed the joyful holiday of Purim - hearing the Megillah story, preparing and snacking on hamentashen, giving “shalach manot” gifts to friends and families, wearing costumes and at CEEW celebrating with music and Superhero drama.

In light of the Gaza war continuing here in Israel with funerals of the fallen soldiers, hostages still in Gaza, residents of Israel still being displaced from their home, soldiers both (active duty and reserves) away from their families, how does one have joy?

One can feel joy in Nature. The month of Adar is the beginning of the beautiful spring weather after the winter rains are over in Israel. The amount of sunlight here brings joy to the soul. The trees and wildflowers are blooming. The bees are pollinating the trees en masse and can be audible

Sisterhood News

By Co-President Deb Hacker



in any park. The grasses are lush, and the children are playing joyfully in the fields and playgrounds.

A wise Israeli woman shared these words about joy especially in these months of Adar- when it is a mitzvah to be joyful. She said “One can still have trauma, but still have small points of joy. It is most important to not let them take away your joy. That’s what the terrorists want- to remove your peace of mind and your joy. Pray for peace of mind and Shalom Bayit (peace in the home) because shalom in the world starts in the home.”

Wishing you all small points of joy especially in Adar and always. I hope you can find joy in community and all the sharing and caring that CEEW Sisterhood offers: the Zoom program on Jewish woman comedians on March 5; WRJ Area Day at the Jewish Museum on March 10; and the upcoming beading program on April 2.

From the Desk of Carol O’Neil

On Tuesday March 5 members of the CEEW Sisterhood and guests gathered to view “The Many Mrs. Maisels: History of Jewish Female Stand-up Comedians.”

The program was sponsored by UWM’s Center for Jewish Studies as part of the Faye Sigman Woman of Valor Series and presented by Grace Kessler Overbeke, an assistant professor of theater at Columbia College in Chicago.

Professor Overbeke presented a slide show showing Jewish women from the dancers of early film and vaudeville to today’s artists of stage, TV and screen. The humor was said to come out of the shtetls of eastern Europe to the lower east side of New York. Names mentioned include Jean Carroll, born Celine Zeigman in 1911, Fanny Brice and modern greats such as Sarah Silverman and Maya Rudolph. The Sisterhood will continue to look for programming where we can gather in our quarters and participate via technology.



Share with the congregation all the wonderful things happening in your family!
Send birthday and anniversary information to: bulletin@waukeshatemple.org.

Sisterhood News

CONTINUED

From the Desk of Janet Buckstein, WRJ Special Area Director, Midwest Region

On March 10, WRJ Sisterhood Area Day, 35 women from Wisconsin and Northern Illinois participated in a private tour of the exhibit “The Book Smugglers: Partisans, Poets, and the Race to Save Jewish Treasurers from the Nazis.” The exhibit displays the true story of the Paper Brigade of

Vilna, a dedicated group of heroes whose bravery and resistance to inhumanity and persecution resulted in the rescue of Vilna’s Jewish culture for future generations.

Following the tour, we gathered for lunch and small group discus-

sions of the impact of the exhibit and how each of us relates to it in our personal lives. Many thanks to the team that organized this event: our own Cindy Levy, Leslie Kemp, Ruth Treisman, Janet Buckstein, Cheryl Stern, and Marci Delson. ✨



ANNIVERSARIES

Arlene and Peter Shelley celebrate their 60th anniversary on April 2.

Mike and Nancy Cummins celebrate their 44th anniversary on April 27.

BIRTHDAY

Cantor Emeritus Deborah Martin celebrates her birthday on April 26.



Volunteers are needed for the member-led Friday night Shabbat services. Contact Mari-Claire Zimmerman (wzimmerman1@wi.rr.com) for more information.

IN APPRECIATION

of generous contributions to
Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha

February donations, submitted by
CEEW Treasurer **Alan Meyers**

In Memory of...

- **Howard Hurwitz**
Donation from Jack and Elaine Goldberg
- **Ruth Kalstein**
Donation from Jack and Elaine Goldberg
- **Joseph Richfield**
Donation from Adrian Richfield
- **Richard Rocamora**
Donation from Rick and Joan Rocamora

Miscellaneous

- *Donations from Elly Kraines (furnace repairs), Adam and Gretchen Segal (prayer books), and the United Unitarian Universalist Congregation*

Spiritual Leader Fund

- *Donations from Mort Blatt, Pati Allen Brickman, Marshall Cohodes, Raymond and Jayne Elvey, Jack and Elaine Goldberg, Deborah and Richard Hacker, Rivian Hatt, Elly Kraines, Karen Levy, Barbara Mulhern, Carol O'Neil, Marcia Romashko, Diana Stroshine, Barbara Zacher, and Mari-Claire Zimmerman*



Contact temple administrator Brigette Alexander prior to a service, to add a name of a relative or friend to the recent list of those who have died.

May Their Memories Be for a Blessing

Yahrzeiten **II Adar / Nisan (April)**



PLEASE NOTE: Some of the listings don't have a Hebrew date; that is because we have been changing the database and offering English / Gregorian dates to those who prefer them. In such cases, only the English / Gregorian dates will be listed.

Benne Alter: April 17, Nisan 9
Father of Ann (Alan) Meyers

Bella Cohen: April 12
Observed by the Congregation

Diana Ellison: April 30
Mother of Barbara (Gregory) Zacher

Rose Elvey: April 29
Mother of Raymond Elvey

Dorothy Goff Frisch: April 12, Nisan 4
Observed by the Congregation

Julius Garber: April 29
Family of Alan (Ann) Meyers and cousin of Gloria Meyers

Merle E. Goldstone: April 22, Nisan 14
Father of Michael Goldstone (Susan Vetrovsky)

Samuel Hafner: April 15
Father of Sandra (Marvin) Small and grandfather of Sxdni Small

Mildred Huza: April 22
Mother of Susan (Stephen) Blonsky

Janet Kover: April 23
Mother of Kathy Leeman

Iosif Krasnik: April 24, Nisan 16
Grandfather of Irene (Robert) Elkin

Kathe "Kay" Kurz: April 22, Nisan 14
Observed by the Congregation

Martin Levin: April 8, II Adar 29
Uncle of Mark (Cindy) Levy

Sheldon D. Miller: April 21, Nisan 13
Stepfather of Michael Goldstone (Susan Vetrovsky)

Marcy Rudoy: April 20
Mother of Marcy (James) Hotz

Mary Schuman: April 20
Wife of Philip Schuman

Senta Strauss: April 29, Nisan 21
Grandmother of Claude Scher

F. Herbert Venango: April 15
Father of Arlene (Peter) Shelley

Walter Wolfson: April 18
Father of Sheri (Cantor Martin) Levson

*May G-d comfort you
among all the mourners
of Zion and Jerusalem.*





“...of all the holidays, Passover’s dynamism wins the metaphor count. We are instructed to relive our ancestors’ enslavement, escape, and deliverance as though it were our own journey—while sitting around a table.”

— poet Jessica Greenbaum, coeditor of *Mishkan HaSeder*

Poetry Corner

For our next issue we invite you to suggest a favorite poem, or submit your own work to Adrian Richfield (susu78@aol.com) or Sxdni Small (rottiesrock@wi.rr.com).

Why is This Night Different?

By Ray Shankman

Why is this night different
now that we are older
and our children are with us
each one of us crosses the same desert
helping the stragglers
lifting the forlorn and lost
helping life into life
helplessness into healing hope
we are here together
hearing each story as if it were our own
committed to keeping the story alive
the journey going.

Part of Being Jewish Is a Choice

By Nicholas Gordon

Part of being Jewish is a choice
As one becomes an act of preservation.
Seders start the stream of admonition,
Stories meant to bind one to the past.
On words alone the exiles had to last,
Verses reified by repetition,
Each an heirloom of a generation
Reared to give those ancient words a voice.

The Telling

By Brenda Spigelman Ajzenkopf

Why is this night unlike all others
Are questions the youngest must say
We recline, we pray, we ask the Almighty
Please deliver us from Egypt this day.

Bitters and herbs are ours to consume
To remember the Exodus then
We eat, we drink, we cross the waters
Are pursued by Pharaoh and his men.

The Haggadah reading commands that we tell
How our ancestors toil, how they cry
We plead, we bend, we climb with Moses
And receive the tablets at Mount Sinai.

Elijah is here my father sings out
All bear witness as he flies
We tremble, we hide, we wait as he nears
We peer down through his ancient eyes.





On Monday, April 29, we will hold a Passover Yizkor service (Zoom only) at 7 p.m.

The April Read: *On Division: A Novel* by Goldie Goldbloom



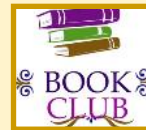
Being an Orthodox Jew in modern times can be a complex endeavor, as clearly delineated in this novel. The main character, Suri, is an Chasidic mother of ten and a grandmother who at age 57 finds herself pregnant with twins.

As this unexpected news appears, she is unable to tell anyone – including her husband – of this dramatic event. How she will be viewed by her community is paramount in her fears.

Having experienced being criticized and ostracized previously because of her gay son who died from suicide, she now must navigate her feelings which begin to desire a place where women don't have such strict demands and strict gender roles. This newfound secret begins to separate her from her Chasidic Williamsburg, Brooklyn community.

Book Club News

By Adrian Richfield



Goldbloom is an Australian Hasidic novelist, essayist, and short story writer. She is an LGBT activist. *On Division* was awarded the Association of Jewish Libraries Book of the Year prize for 2020 and shortlisted for the 2021 Wingate Prize. ☆

CEEW Book Club

When: Wednesday, April 3

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Where: Diana Stroshine's house

To participate, contact
Debi Schwid at deb.schwid@gmail.com

...from *Publisher's Weekly*:

“Goldbloom’s portrait of a woman on the verge of claiming her own agency even after she thought all her life’s questions had been answered makes for fascinating, stirring reading.”



The deadline for articles for the May 2024 Bulletin will be **Thursday, April 18**. Please send materials to Adrian Richfield at susu78@aol.com.



Shabbat Shalom!



APRIL 5	7 p.m.	Cantor-led service
APRIL 12	7 p.m.	Cantor-led service
APRIL 19	7 p.m.	Member-led service
APRIL 26	7 p.m.	Cantor-led service (Zoom only)

These services may be available online, in person, or both. Watch your email for updates on the mode of any temple event.

CEEW TEMPLE LEADERSHIP

SPIRITUAL LEADER	Cantor Martin Levson	spiritualleader@waukeshatemple.org
EDUCATION DIRECTOR	Carrie Barbakoff	eddirector@waukeshatemple.org
PRESIDENT	Laurie Schwartz	president@waukeshatemple.org
VICE PRESIDENT	Mark Levy	markallanlevy@yahoo.com
ADMINISTRATOR	Brigette Alexander	administrator@waukeshatemple.org



The Sisterhood Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 19. Watch your email for more information.

Travel Tales from CEEW To Israel (part two!) with Deb Hacker



Since my son-in-law has a Mizrahi background (Iraqi and Libyan), I have been very interested in learning about the history of the Babylonian Jews (now Iraq). I traveled to the Babylonian Jewry Heritage center in Or Yehuda near Ben Gurion Airport to learn of their ancient and modern history and culture. Most Jews in the US are of Ashkenazi background and have a scant knowledge of middle Eastern Jewry. This museum was another “hidden gem” I have wanted to visit for years.

This lush and very personal museum founded in 1973 contained many family artifacts. My favorite items were those found in a Baghdad alley of Jewish shops and craftsmen, reminiscent of the Streets of Old

Milwaukee. An exquisite example of an Iraqi synagogue and one of an Iraqi home contained beautiful clothing and furniture. An entire wall of amulets to ward off evil spirits piqued my imagination, as I often see modern versions of these amulets adorn baby buggies here in Israel.



A heartrending exhibit showcased a refugee camp in Israel and detailed the harsh life they experienced here for many years. In 1950, Iraq allowed Jews to finally emigrate to Israel if they gave up all their possession and passports. Almost all of the 140,000 dispossessed Iraqi Jew were airlifted in Operation Ezra and Nehemiah in 1950.

The museum begins by tracing the history of the Jews who lived in Babylonia/Iraq since their exile from Judea after 597BCE. Several decades later, Persian King Cyrus conquered Babylonia and permitted the Jews to return to their homeland and to rebuild the Temple. A replica of the “Cyrus cylinder” is included in the museum, likely mentioning his decree.

After the fall of the Second Temple, Bab-





Friday, May 3, will be a Special Shabbat. Watch your CEEW email blasts for more information about this program.

ylonia gathered in more Jewish refugees and became a spiritual and physical homeland for Jews in exile. Great yeshivas were built in Babylonia — namely Sura and Pumpidita, where the Babylonian Talmud was written. Over time, Jews became traders involved in international commerce, banking, law, and medicine, especially under the British mandate.

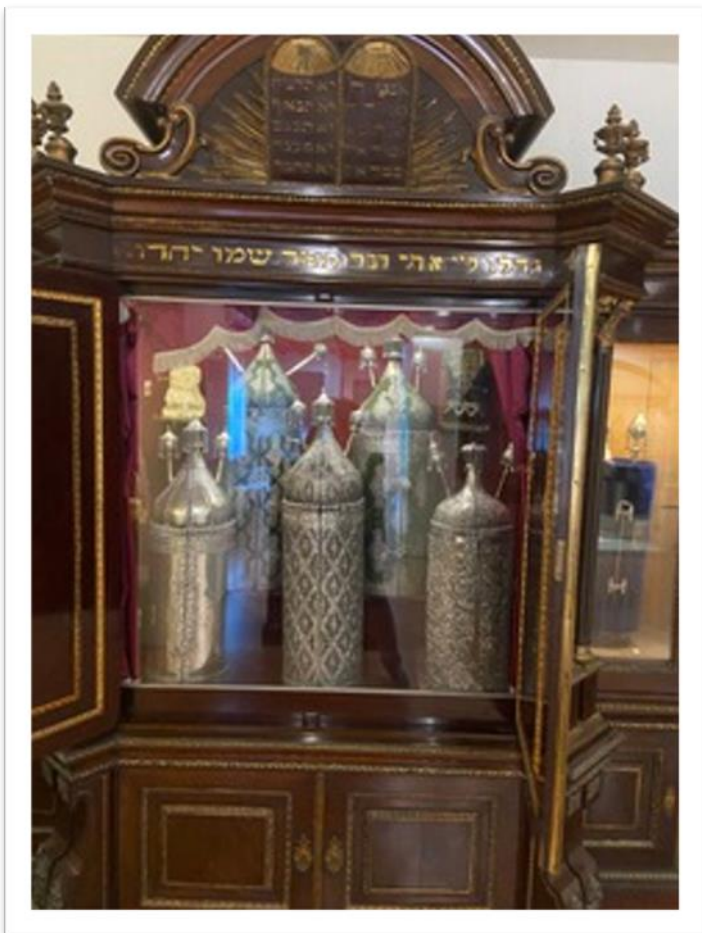
When Muslim nationalistic forces came into being in the 1930s, Jews were marginalized. Muslim leaders collaborated with the Nazis and on June 1, 1941, a pogrom called the Farhud was launched by the Iraqi population, aided by soldiers and policeman. One hundred and forty eight Jews



were killed, many were injured, and businesses were ransacked. Graphic photos are shown in a gallery where one is allowed to sit and ponder this tragedy.



A strong Zionist and also a separate Communist underground were considered answers to the Iraqi Jewish dream of equality. After persecution and often execution of members of these illegal groups, the newly minted State of Israel's prime minister, David Ben Gurion, noted that the Jews of Iraq were in peril and planned a rescue. The Jews had to be secreted out of Iraq by dangerous routes. Underground organizations were formed to provide education in the Hebrew language, weapons training, and vocational training. One photo is seared in my mind of sunburned young men who crossed the desert to reach Israel.

The museum has a nominal admission, many community programs, a fine website, and many volunteers. One can spend about two hours there and see all the exhibits. It is truly a place that demonstrates that out of adversity has come a great people and culture. Iraqi Jews are one of the world's oldest and most historically significant Jewish communities, one that is immensely proud of its heritage, traditions, and contributions. ✨





SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES: April 5, 7:06 pm; April 12, 7:14 pm; April 19, 7:22 pm; April 26, 7:30 pm

5784 2024		APRIL		ADAR II / NISAN		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 II Adar 22	2 II Adar 23	3 II Adar 24 Midrash class, 10:30 a.m. Book Club, 1:30 p.m., Diana Stroshine's house	4 II Adar 25	5 II Adar 26 Cantor-led Shabbat service, 7 p.m.	6 II Adar 27 Shabbat HaChodesh Mevarchim Chodesh Nisan  Shmini
7 II Adar 28 Religious school, 9 a.m. Adult Education program, 11:45 a.m.	8 II Adar 29 Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	9 Nisan 1 Rosh Chodesh Nisan	10 Nisan 2 Midrash class, 10:30 a.m.	11 Nisan 3	12 Nisan 4 Cantor-led Shabbat service, 7 p.m.	13 Nisan 5  Tazria
14 Nisan 6 Religious school, 9 a.m.	15 Nisan 7	16 Nisan 8	17 Nisan 9 No Midrash class this week	18 Nisan 10 DEADLINE FOR MAY BULLETIN ARTICLES	19 Nisan 11 Member-led Shabbat service, 7 p.m.	20 Nisan 12 Shabbat HaGadol  Metzora
21 Nisan 13 No religious school	22 Nisan 14 Erev Pesach	23 Nisan 15 Pesach - First Day Community Seder	24 Nisan 16 Pesach - Second Day Midrash class, 10:30 a.m.	25 Nisan 17 Pesach - Third Day	26 Nisan 18 Pesach - Fourth Day Cantor-led Shabbat service, 7 p.m. (Zoom only)	27 Nisan 19 Pesach - Fifth Day
28 Nisan 20 Pesach - Sixth Day No religious school	29 Nisan 21 Pesach - Seventh Day	30 Nisan 22				

The content deadline for the April 2024 bulletin is **Monday, March 18.**

Calendar dates, holidays, and candle lighting times are from hebc.com.
Check the CEEW calendar for the most current information.