



# Temple Beth Sholom

LAKE HAVASU CITY ARIZONA

April 2011 / 5771

חזק חזק ונתחזק

Be strong, be strong, and may we be strengthened.

## President's Corner

The month of April, in the secular calendar, brings us Passover. The holiday is observed between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of Nisan in the Jewish calendar.. This holiday celebrates the Israelites exodus from Egypt. They were slaves in the land and were subjected to backbreaking labor and unbearable horrors. G-d saw the Israelites situations and sent in his spokesman, Moses, to convince Pharaoh to let his people leave Egypt. Moses tried to reason with Pharaoh and pleaded with him to let the Israelites go, but he would not change his mind. So G-d decided to punish Pharaoh and his people by casting 10 plagues on Egypt. The last of these plagues was the slaying of the first born. The angel of death did not visit the homes of the Israelites, because they painted a symbol on their doorposts, thus the naming of the holiday, Passover. Pharaoh's son was one of the first born slain, and after this his son's death he relented and allowed the Israelites to leave Egypt. He subsequently changed his mind and pursued the Israelites into the desert. All of the Egyptians that were in pursuit of the Isaelites were killed in the Red Sea.

In my personal opinion this story of oppression and its subsequent resolution continues today. In Lybia, Egypt and Baharain a tyrannt is in power and the people of these nations are oppressed. These people must leave their homes and flee to another land, such as the Israelites did in 1313 BCE . The difference between the Israelties and the people in these current situations, is that G-d provided a land for his chosen people to settle. They eventually found the land of Canaan. The oppressed of today do not have a land that they can claim, settle and call their own. In addition, not all of the oppressed, have the United States acting as G-d and interceeding and forcing the oppressor to relent or else.pay the consequences. As G-d killed Egypt's first born, so the U.S. is killing all of those that follow the tyrannt. In the Lybian situation we are using aircraft and missles to accomplish our goal. But, in other situations, such as Iraq and Afganistan, we are sacrificing our own young people, to affect our efforts. I would like to see peace throughout the world, but I don't think that the United States has to act as G-d to force a country into submission. Especially when we have to sacrifice our country's youth.

We have oppressed people in our own country that need our help. We need to start focusing our attention on some of the conditions that are affecting the oppressed people in the United States. Lets start helping ourselves before we go off and save the world.

I hope to see all of you at either our next service on April 8<sup>th</sup> or at our Passover seder on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Shalom, Stuart Flamm



**FROM OUR STUDENT RABBI:** Temple Sholom is one of over 900 member synagogues of the Union For Reform Judaism. The URJ is the largest movement in North America and represents over one million Jewish families. Throughout its 138 year history, it has been instrumental in growing the Reform Movement in this country and supporting communities around the world. So what does the URJ do today?

There are 12 URJ summer camps which educate thousands of Jewish children every year. In addition, there is NFTY, the national youth movement, of which I am a product. The Union also supports the Religious Action Center which represents the Reform Movement in Washington, advocating for social justice causes such as ending the genocide in Darfur. In addition, the URJ provides congregational support, funds the Reform seminary, hosts conferences and conventions, and creates numerous publications which are available in print and online to Jews of all denominations.

I share this because it is an exciting time for the URJ: after an extensive search, the movement has announced the selec-

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## April Yahrzeits

Inge Dux

Bertha Galst

Jules Schwartz

### Annual election of officers

will take place at the next board meeting, April 28, 6 PM at the temple.

If you are interested in running for a position or nominating a candidate please contact any board member.

### The Jewish Knight

A British Jew is waiting in line to be knighted by the Queen. He is to kneel in front of her and recite a sentence in Latin when she taps him on the shoulders with her sword. However, when his turn comes, he panics in the excitement of the moment and forgets the Latin. Then, thinking fast, he recites the only other sentence he knows in a foreign language, which he remembers from the Passover seder: "Ma nishtana ha layla ha zeh mi kol ha laylot."

Puzzled, Her Majesty turns to her advisor and whispers,

"Why is this knight different from all other knights?"

## Temple Beth Sholom needs your PARTICIPATION

**If you are aware of unaffiliated families, please invite them to Sabbath services and/or advise the board.**

**Please consider taking a more active part in running your temple.**

**Call, email or let us know at services.**

## 2010 TBS Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	<b>Stuart Flamm</b>	<b>president@tbshavasus.org</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Wayne Cohen</b>	<b>wcohen@tbshavasus.org</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Andrea Coffield</b>	<b>office@tbshavasus.org</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Stan Coffield</b>	<b>tbshavasus@gmail.com</b>
<b>Members at large</b>	<b>Vivian Simon</b>	<b>and Andy Chaet</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Danny Kowalsky</b>	<b>script@tbshavasus.org</b>

## When Did Passover Begin?

Stephanie Kramer

When did Passover begin? According to the Bible, Passover has been celebrated as an evening ceremony ever since the Israelites escaped Pharaoh's rule in Egypt and had their initial paschal meal. Passover has two biblical names, Chag HaPesach, "the Feast of the Passover" (Exodus 34:25), and Chag HaMatzot, "the Feast of Unleavened Bread" (Exodus 23:15, Leviticus 23:6, Deuteronomy 16:16). In the Book of Exodus, Chapters 12 and 13, we read the historical narrative of the fleeing from Egypt, followed by the biblical commandment to celebrate Passover in Leviticus 23:5-8.

"In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, at twilight, there shall be a Passover offering to Adonai, and on the fifteenth day of that month Adonai's Feast of Unleavened Bread. You shall eat unleavened bread for seven days. On the first day you shall celebrate a sacred occasion: you shall not work at your occupations. Seven days you shall make offerings by fire to Adonai. The seventh day shall be a sacred occasion: you shall not work at your occupations" (Leviticus 23:5-8).

According to some scholars, it is possible that the festival finds its roots among the semi-nomads who wandered near Palestine thousands of years ago. Nisan, the month when Passover falls, is also the month when sheep are most likely to give birth. On the full moon, nomads would come to observe the festival shortly before a sheep or a goat was about to be sacrificed; the animal was then eaten before daybreak.<sup>1</sup>

One theory states that the Feast of Unleavened Bread was a festival celebrated by the farmers in Canaan to mark the spring harvest. The first step was to cut the barley and offer it to the priests as a sacrifice to God before it was collected for consumption. "The elimination of *chamaytz* may have originally been precautionary so as not to infect the new incoming crop. Or, it may have been a way of propitiating the priests and God so as to assure healthy bounty."<sup>2</sup>

The seder, literally translated as order, which we know as the home ceremony performed on the first two nights of Passover, was probably not always as packed full of rituals, symbolism, and teaching. Many of the amusing rituals that are carried out at this meal were created to enable parents to hold the attention of their children long enough to teach them about the deliverance from slavery to freedom. This injunction is found in Exodus 13:8, "And you shall explain to your child on that day, 'It is because of what Adonai did for me when I went free from Egypt.'" Most scholars believe that the seder was ritualized by the time the Mishnah was published in 200 C.E. This is thought to be so because Mishnah *P'sachim* 10 presents a description of the seder meal that is very similar to ours today.<sup>3</sup>

This prototype haggadah found in the Mishnah must have been widely used, because it made its way into Rav Amram's very first prayer book, which was published in the eighth century, and was again used in Saadia Gaon's prayer book, published in the tenth century, and was finally printed as a separate book, it is believed, beginning in the twelfth century.

Even though the bulk of our seder has longstanding roots, there are new rituals being added all the time: Miriam's cup, an orange, plague hand puppets, creative 4 children, and participatory telling of the Exodus story serve to keep the attention of twenty first century children around the world while they participate in the most celebrated Jewish Holy Day of all.

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tion of a new president: Rabbi Richard Jacobs. Rabbi Jacobs has vowed to re-energize the Movement in these difficult financial times and continue to keep it relevant in this changing world. His full biography can be found on the URJ website: [www.urj.org](http://www.urj.org).

Beth Sholom should be proud to be a member of such a vital organization. As such, we are all entitled to the many services offered as a condition of membership. Please reach out to me to learn more about how you can take advantage.  
-Jeremy

## **Our thanks for donations from the following congregants**

Garry Meyers for his generous donations  
In appreciation of work done by Sue Tuberman,  
a “thank you” donation was made by Joy Simon.  
and to Jill Fetz for the DELICIOUS home baked challahs

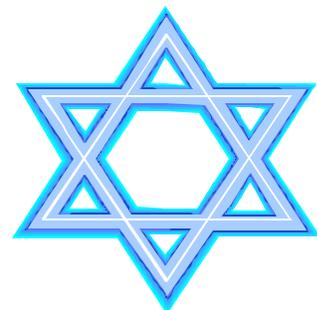
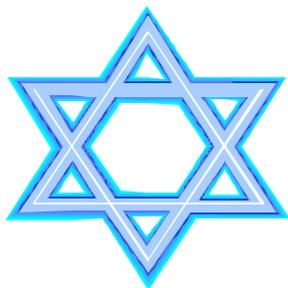
Help support Temple Beth Sholom, contact Danny to purchase scrip that you can then use to purchase groceries at Smiths or Bashas supermarkets.

Dan has scrip available in various denominations, using scrip to purchase groceries is a painless way to financially benefit the temple.

You have to eat anyway, support the temple when you buy groceries.

Contact Dan at 928-854-6972 for more information

## **Our thanks to Vivian Simon for sponsoring this months Oneg Shabatt**



### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR Friday night Shabbat Services**

**with Rabbi Jeremy Simons**

**7:30 PM at our Temple**

**April 8**

**May 13**

***Our Next Board Meeting is***

***Thursday April 28***

***And includes the annual election***

***6:00pm at the Temple.***

***Plan on attending,***

***show your support of TBS***

***Everyone is welcome***