

The Kol, Congregation Beth Ahm's Official Bulletin

MARCH 2018

ADAR – NISAN 5778



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Rabbi Alan Lefkowitz

Kol Editor: Laura Soll-Broxterman

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THE RABBI'S WORD:

With Passover coming, we are reminded that we are allowed, even encouraged to ask questions. The Passover Haggadah even ensures that questions are asked. Perhaps the most famous passage in the Haggadah is the "Ma Nish-ta-na" which is being in awe followed by a declaration, "Wow, how different this night is from all other nights!" This paragraph is recited by the youngest person (not necessarily a child) at the Seder; for a Jewish child, this may be a first experience of public speaking, public questioning. Asking questions pertain to finding the reasons behind the holiday's rituals, for example. On all other nights, we all kinds of bread, why tonight do we only eat Matza?" The remainder of the Haggadah is designed to answer those questions.

Another well-known passage speaks of four children: one wise, one thoughtless, one simple, and one too young to ask questions. We are told that no two children are alike; they study in each their own way, and are developing their own style of living, which requires questioning. The reading describes the parents' responses to each child.

The spirit of Passover is summarized in one characteristic teaching of the Haggadah: "In every generation, we are obligated to regard ourselves as if we personally were liberated from Egypt."

So, in the spirit of Passover, as we experience our freedom and as we ask our questions, we at Congregation Beth Ahm have been undertaking our own journey, as we have been asking questions pertaining to where we will be going, where will we set up our proverbial tent and how can we keep our legacy alive.

This year let us include our own questions that will give you the insight as to what you want your Jewish life to be for you.

Here are the probable questions to consider:

What were your reasons for joining CBA?
How does a synagogue meet your needs?

What have you enjoyed the most about belonging to CBA?

What do you have to offer another congregation?

For Interfaith Households:

What do you need so that you are more comfortable as an interfaith family?

Jody and I wish you all a Happy, Sweet Passover.

- Rabbi Alan



SPECIAL CBA MEMBERS MEETING

Monday, March 26 at 7 p.m.

See Page 2



WOMEN-LED ROSH CHODESH SERVICE & SHABBAT DINNER

Friday, March 16 at 6 p.m.

See Page 3

SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING**Monday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m.**

If all goes as anticipated, **we will ask our members** at this meeting to approve beginning to negotiate a merger with either Sinai Temple in Springfield or Temple Beth Hillel in South Windsor. We also will **update members on the sale** of our building and **plans for potential final events**.

Please plan to attend this important meeting. We welcome your input and hope you've had an opportunity to attend a service at each of these synagogues.

- Marcia Heneson & the Executive Committee

From the Executive Committee:

Most of us remember the Byrds' iconic song that begins "To everything (turn, turn, turn) there is a season, (turn, turn, turn) and a time to every purpose under heaven". As we lumber our way through winter, our thoughts will begin to turn to spring and to the next phase of our Beth Ahm community. You know that the approval was given at the congregational meeting at the end of January to put the synagogue building up for sale. We have met with a realtor and expect that the building will be on the market in early March.

We are actively exploring options that would affiliate us with another synagogue, allowing us to preserve important parts of our history as well as to move forward as part of a larger synagogue community, while maintaining some of the culture of Beth Ahm that has bound us together for over sixty years. Some items, such as our memorial boards and the Tree of Life will go with us, wherever we go. Some memorabilia will be donated to the Windsor Historical Society, to remind others that we have been here. The town of Windsor welcomed us with open arms when the ground was broken at 362 Palisado Avenue to create a little cinderblock structure in the heart of the town's historic district and we would like to let the town know that we have appreciated that welcome.

As we continue to move forward into the next phase of our synagogue life, as always, we need our members' help. Some of us have attended services at Temple Beth Hillel in South Windsor to check things out and plan to do the same at Sinai

Temple in Springfield. We encourage any Beth Ahm member to visit either of those two houses of worship. Recently, Marcia Heneson, Steve Feltman, Helena Friedman and Karen Donn met with Rabbi Glickman and members of Temple Beth Hillel to begin to talk about combining our communities. There will be a similar meeting scheduled with Temple Sinai; any of our members are welcome to take part in that conversation. We want, no, we need our membership to be as informed as possible throughout this process. Additionally, on March 12th, we will be doing an inventory of the contents of our building, so that we can begin to make decisions about so many things that have been important to the life of our little shul. Please let me know if you can help out.

There is one more thing that we need from our members, that you continue to be members for the remainder of the life of the synagogue. We need for you to continue to pay your dues, so that we can meet our current financial obligations, fulfilling our commitment to the Rabbi and maintaining our building.

Rabbi Alan has asked me several times how I am doing in this challenging process. I have told me that I am OK. Beth Ahm is the only synagogue where I have held membership and I cannot remember a time in my life before CBA, so it will be strange to be somewhere else for services, for the High Holy days and for other events. I will be sad to see our doors close but I will remember nearly three generations of children growing up in our little cinderblock building. There will not be another place quite like this one but in time, there will be another place for us.

Shalom,

Marla Adelsberger, Executive Committee

CBA 2017-2018**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

- **Marla Adelsberger** – 860-668-5501 or marlaLadelsberger@gmail.com
- **Steve Feltman** – 860-561-4370 or glugh2o@aol.com
- **Marcia Heneson** – 860-688-2283 or mheneson@gmail.com

MARCH 2018 SERVICES & EVENTS*Friday Evening Services at 6:30am**Saturday Shabbat Services at 9:30am*

Fri., Mar. 2	Minyan Shabbat Service 6pm
Sat., Mar. 3	CBA Morning Service 9:30am
Thur., Mar. 8	CBA Card Club 7:30pm
Fri., Mar. 9	Minyan Shabbat Service 6pm
Sat., Mar. 10	CBA Morning Service 9:30am
Sun., Mar. 11	Scrip Orders due to M.Heneson
Tue., Mar. 13	RSVPs due to Marla for March 16 Shabbat Dinner
Thur., Mar. 15	CBA Board Meeting 7pm
Fri., Mar. 16	Rosh Chodesh Service & Shabbat Dinner 6pm
Sat., Mar. 17	CBA Morning Service 9:30am
Thur., Mar. 22	CBA Card Club 7:30pm
Fri., Mar. 23	Minyan Shabbat Service 6pm
Sat., Mar. 24	CBA Morning Service 9:30am
Mon., Mar. 26	CBA MEMBER MEETING 7pm
Fri., Mar. 30	<u>NO</u> Evening Service – 1 st Seder
Sat., Mar. 31	CBA Morning Service 9:30am

CBA's RELIGIOUS SCHOOL is held at Temple Beth Hillel, South Windsor

Sundays: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Tuesdays: 6 p.m.-7 p.m.

Emergency Closing Alerts for Congregation Beth Ahm

If weather forces us to cancel or postpone services or events, find out immediately:

- 1) **Call** the synagogue at 860-688-9989 and listen to our voicemail message;
- 2) **Watch** the cancellation list on WFSB-TV 3, NBC 30, FOX 61 or WTNH-TV 8; or
- 3) **Listen** to WTIC-AM 1080 radio for list of closings.

WOMEN & GIRLS TO LEAD ROSH CHODESH SERVICE & SHABBAT DINNER

Friday, March 16 at 6 p.m.

On **Friday, March 16 at 6 p.m.**, “**New Beginnings**” will be the theme of a special Rosh Chodesh service led by CBA’s women and girls. After the service, we will enjoy a delicious dinner.

Helena Friedman is coordinating the service and seeks members to do readings she has selected – in English or Hebrew, your choice. Also welcomed are sharing of stories or readings of starting over, transitions, fresh outlooks or trying something new.

To participate in the service, contact Helena at **860-683-0478** or **Helena.Friedman@gmail.com**

DINNER \$16 adults; \$7 kids age 12 & under.

To RSVP for dinner, respond by March 13 to

Marla Adelsberger at 860-668-5501

or **marlaLadelsberger@gmail.com**

SELL YOUR CHAMETZ

According to the “Shulchan Aruch, “A Jew having leaven food in their possession during Passover is transgressing the precept: ‘No leaven shall be seen with you.’ And ‘No leaven shall be found in your houses.’ ‘Every nook and cranny must be searched with the utmost care; even searching the pockets of our garments. It is forbidden to own any chametz products during Passover.”

To rid yourself of chametz, I will serve as your agent for the selling of chametz to a non-Jew, who will take ownership of it.

Make this an important mitzvah!

- Rabbi Alan

SUPPORT BETH AHM'S FUNDS:

Contributing to Beth Ahm's funds is a generous and important way to support our congregation's financial needs. Donations can be \$10 and up to as much as you wish. Your donation is listed in this newsletter AND a card is sent to the recipient or family, noting your kindness.

▶ **FLOWER & HOSPITALITY FUND:**

c/o Donna Waksman, 860-432-2618
190 Debbie Drive, South Windsor, CT 06074

- Sid Druckman

▶ **CONGREGATION BETH AHM FUND:**

(Helps with important CBA operating costs)

c/o Congregation Beth Ahm
362 Palisado Ave., Windsor, CT 06095

▶ **BUILDING FUND:**

Congregation Beth Ahm
362 Palisado Ave., Windsor, CT 06095

▶ **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND:**

c/o Judy Menaker, 860-745-2032
39 Gary Road, Enfield, CT 06082

Write check: CBA Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

▶ **YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND:**

c/o Stacy Kowaluk, skowaluk@cox.net
Congregation Beth Ahm
362 Palisado Ave., Windsor, CT 06095

▶ **TREE OF LIFE PLAQUES:**

Brass Leaves: \$72 Brass Stones: \$275
c/o Laura Soll-Broxterman
Cong Beth Ahm, 362 Palisado Ave., Windsor, CT

▶ **JULIUS & DORIS YELLEN FUND:**

c/o Millie Sobel, email: mbodian43@aol.com
16 Mill Stone Circle, Stamford, CT 06093

R'FUAH SHLAYMA – GET WELL:

- Larry Bodian
- Fran and Phil Feltman
- Bea Levine

**THANK YOU, PURIM BAKERS!**

Thanks to the wonderful crew who helped to bake and deliver hamantaschen for Purim:

Dough Maker: **Marcy Stabile**

Bakers: **Karen Groenstein, Stacy Kowaluk, Rachel Adelsberger, Marla Adelsberger, Randy and Carly Simons**

Purim Bag Deliveries: **Karen Groenstein and Marla Adelsberger**

And, thanks to all of our CBA members who supported our annual Purim card!

- Marcia Heneson

CBA SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS

Many local senior citizens are on fixed incomes and are eligible for help from Windsor Social Services. They cannot afford the cost of personal care items such as soap, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes and razors. They also cannot afford to purchase house cleaning products such as paper towels, sponges, dish detergent, laundry detergent and all-purpose cleaners.

Congregation Beth Ahm collects personal care and cleaning items to donate to Windsor Social Services. We seek items or sets of items such as gift bags filled with personal care items for women, personal care items for men (including razors and shaving cream), or a complete box of cleaning products.

Questions? Contact Helena Friedman at 860-683-0478 or Helena.Friedman@gmail.com



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YAHREZITS – MARCH 2018**(Adar 14 – Nisan 15)**

Minnie Carlin	Adar I 14
Eleanor R. Stuart	Adar I 14
Leah Weinberg Wayne	Adar I 15
Max Sisitzky	Adar I 16
Robert Louis Goldberg	Adar II 16
Joseph Galinsky	Adar I 17
Vincent (Vic) Sussman	Adar I 17
Hugo Lowenstein	Adar I 18
Martin Vigdarowitz	Adar I 18
Kate Miller Stoltz	Adar I 19
Leon Morton Prague	Adar II 19
Allen Goldberg	Adar I 20
Arthur Prague	Adar I 20
William I. Nathan	Adar I 21
Arlene Friedman	Adar I 22
Morris Falek	Adar II 22
David Carl Menaker	Adar II 22
Max C. Schlar	Adar I 23
Philip Rice	Adar I 23
Albert S. Dressler	Adar I 24
Etta Sommers	Adar I 25
Rebecca K. Shafman	Adar I 25
Anne Rosenberg Jones	Adar I 25
Evelyn Rivlin	Adar I 26
Irving Wasserman	Adar I 26
Amy Szlamowicz	Adar I 27
Goldie Schepart	Adar I 27
Florence Denenholtz Blach	Adar I 29
Minnie V. Frank	Adar I 29
Simon Bloom	Nisan 1
Ernest Marsel	Nisan 2
Seymour A. (Sy) Rothenberg	Nisan 2
Jean Bertha Nadel	Nisan 3
Joel G. Levin	Nisan 3
Joseph B. Klepak	Nisan 5
Beverly Palkenfeld	Nisan 5
Chiel Sommers	Nisan 10
Morris Schulman	Nisan 11
Nathan Furman	Nisan 11
Morris F. Fleishman	Nisan 11
Hilda London	Nisan 13
John J. Yavener	Nisan 14
Charles Danen	Nisan 15

MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE FOR A BLESSING*(Refer to the attached calendar for the English corresponding English calendar date)*

Condolences to the Soll-Broxterman family on the passing of their mother and grandmother, May Soll.

MARCH 2018 TORAH READINGS
SATURDAY 9:30 A.M. SERVICES

Saturday, March 3: **Ki Tissa** (30:11-34:35)

The Israelites build a golden calf; when Moses sees it, he shatters the tablets with 10 Commandments.

Saturday, March 10: **Vayakheil** (35:1-38:20)

The people bring an array of gifts for the tabernacle until they are told to stop.

Pekudei (38:21-40:38) The cloud of glory covers the completed tabernacle as the Israelites stand in the distance.

Saturday, March 17: **Vayikra** (1:1-5:26)

God reveals the sacrificial laws.

Saturday, March 24: **Tzav**(6:1-8:36)

Moses anoints Aaron and his sons as priests

Saturday, March 31: **Pesach** (12:37-42)

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A PASSOVER GUIDE REGARDING KASHERING AND FOOD

Great variances exist in the approach of different rabbis to the halachot of observing Passover. Customs also vary greatly among communities and traditions. Here is a presentation that follows Jewish Law and at the same time enables us to observe Pesach without undue hardship. Those who wish to be more rigorous in their observance are welcome to do so, but the practices below allow us to follow the holiday with a perfect heart.

KASHERING OF KITCHEN APPLIANCES AND UTENSILS

It is customary to remove the utensils and dishes that are used during the year, replacing them with either new utensils or ones used only for Pesach each year. This is clearly not possible for major appliances and may not even be possible for some dishes and utensils. There is a process for “kashering” many, but not all, kitchen items, thus making them kosher for Pesach. The general principle used in kashering is that the way the utensil absorbs food is the way it can be purged of that food (*Ke-volo kakh pol-to*). Thus, utensils used directly on a fire need to be koshered by fire (*libbun*), utensils used in cooking require boiling (*hag'alah*) and utensils used only for cold food are koshered by rinsing. Specific items are covered below.

- a) Earthenware (china, pottery, etc.) and items used for baking cannot be kashered.
- b) Plastic utensils or items, if they can withstand immersion in boiling water or a dishwasher, are kashered like any other utensil.
- c) Metal utensils used in a fire must first be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned and then must be subjected to direct fire. A blow torch and a self-cleaning oven are two ways to accomplish this purging. Take care in doing this.
- d) Metal pots used for cooking and eating and silverware and utensils not used for baking are cleaned and then immersed in water at a rolling boil or run through the dishwasher on its highest setting.
- e) Ovens and Ranges—every part that comes in contact with food must be thoroughly cleaned. Then the oven or range should be heated as hot as possible. The oven should be heated at maximum heat for a half-hour; the range top until the elements turn red and glow. Self-cleaning ovens are put through a full cleaning cycle while empty.
- f) Smooth top electric ranges are kashered by cleaning the top thoroughly and then turning on the burners to maximum for a half-hour.
- g) Microwave ovens that have no convection option should be thoroughly cleaned. Then an 8-ounce cup of water is placed inside, the oven is turned on until the water almost disappears (e.g. at least six of the 8 ounces is gone). Running the microwave until the water is entirely gone may damage the oven.
- h) Convection ovens are kashered like regular ovens.
- i) Glassware should be scrubbed and cleaned thoroughly or preferably run through a dishwasher, again on the highest setting.
- j) Dishwashers need to be thoroughly cleaned, including the inside area around the drainage. Then a full cycle should be run on the highest setting with the appliance empty.
- k) Other electrical appliances can be koshered if the parts that come in contact with *hametz* are metal and are removable, in which case they may be koshered like all other metal cooking utensils. The other parts of the appliance should be thoroughly cleaned. If the parts are not removable, the appliances generally cannot be kashered. Whenever possible, small appliances should be ones used only for Pesach, thus avoiding the difficulty of kashering these appliances.
- l) Tables, closets, and counters should be thoroughly cleaned for Pesach. Then boiling water should be poured over the counters after they have been thoroughly cleaned. No “covering” is needed.
- m) Metal sinks are kashered by thoroughly cleaning and scrubbing the sink (especially the garbage catch) and then carefully pouring boiling water over all the surfaces of the sink, including the lip.
- n) Non-Passover dishes, pots, utensils and *hametz* food that have been sold as part of the selling of one's *hametz* should be separated, covered and/or locked away to prevent accidental use. How this is appropriately done is an individual choice.
- o) Selling one's *hametz* and saying the prayer annulling any accidental ownership of *hametz* are essential parts of this process. (See below)

-CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE-

FOODS AND FOOD STUFF

The Torah prohibits the ownership of *hametz* (leavened grains) during Pesach. Therefore, we arrange for the sale of the *hametz* to a non-Jew. The transfer, *mechirat hametz*, is accomplished by appointing an agent, usually one's rabbi, to handle the sale. It is a valid and legal transfer of ownership. The agent also arranges the repurchase of the items at the end of the holiday. *If ownership of the hametz was not transferred before the holiday, the use of any such hametz remains prohibited after the holiday (hametz she-avar ha-Pesach).*

Since the Torah prohibits the eating of *hametz* during Pesach, and since many common foods contain some *hametz*, follow the rules below when shopping / preparing for Pesach.

- a) Items that are kosher all year round and that are made with no hametz, may be used with no special Pesach supervision. White milk would be an example of such a product. In most cases, however, since we do not know enough about the processing of products, it is preferable to use items that have Pesach supervision.
- b) In general, all "Kosher for Pesach" items must have a label indicating the name of a recognized supervising Rabbi or kosher supervision agency. This label that should be integral to the package and ideally indicate the current year.
- c) Prohibited foods include the following: leavened bread, cakes, biscuits, crackers or coffees containing cereal derivatives, i.e. anything made with wheat, barley, oats, spelt or rye. Any food containing these grains or derivatives of these grains (the five prohibited species for Pesach) are forbidden. Foods containing flavorings, which may be derived from alcohol produced from one of these grains which would be *hametz*, need Pesach supervision.
- d) Ashkenazi rabbinical authorities have added grains called "*kitniyot*" to the above list: e.g. rice, corn, millet, beans and peas. They are routinely eaten in Sephardic communities and Israel. I believe that this stringency is unnecessary and does not need to be followed.
- e) Again, in Israel, the general practice is to use all the *kitniyot* foods other than those that might have come in contact with the prohibited grains. I see no reason not to follow Israeli practice. However, Ashkenazi Jews who do not use *kitniyot* need to be vigilant when purchasing Israeli products, marked "kosher for Passover."
- f) Similarly, some Orthodox rabbinic authorities have prohibited the uses of peanuts and peanut oil, but if you must, use and consume on Pesach.

PERMITTED FOODS

- a) The following foods require no "kosher l'Pesach" label when purchased before or during Pesach: fresh fruits and vegetables that have not been coated (wash them well to eliminate any possible coatings); eggs, kosher fish and kosher meat, fresh or frozen, with the exception of ground products for which prohibited materials could have been made on the same equipment.
- b) The following products require reliable "kosher l'Pesach" certification whether bought before or during Pesach: all baked goods (matzah, Pesach cakes, matzah flour, farfel, matzah meal and any other products containing matzah, bottled juices, wine, vinegar, liquor, candy, chocolate flavored milk, ice cream, yogurt, and soda.
- c) The following foods require no kosher l'Pesach label, but do require Kashrut supervision if purchased new before Pesach; coffee, non-confectioners' sugar, pure tea (not flavored herbal or decaf tea), salt, and baking soda. To this list add water-pack canned tuna and salmon, cheeses with no added ingredients, dried fruits, and frozen uncooked vegetables.
- d) Processed foods should be purchased before the morning that the holiday begins. For items that would not normally have hametz, it is presumed that any possible hametz as an accidental admixture which, if present before Passover, is considered to be nullified because of its minute quantity – as opposed to something purchased during Passover when even a minute amount is not permissible. Again, with the exceptions mentioned above, any processed food bought during Pesach must have a kosher l'Pesach label.

IN ADDITION:

- Any detergent, because it is not a food and not eaten, may be used for Pesach. I suggest using new packaging.
- Medicines present questions in that hametz binders are used in many pills. If the medicine is required for life sustaining treatment, it may certainly be used on Pesach. If it is not life sustaining therapy, capsules, because they do not need binders, are preferable to pills. However, all may be taken as needed.

For any, feel free to consult with Rabbi Alan at 860-688-9989 or rabbialan@congregationbethahm.org




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CONGREGATION BETH AHM • March 2018 Adar – Nisan 5778

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				14 Adar MAR 1 <i>Purim</i>	15 Adar MAR 2 6:00pm Minyan Shabbat Services 5:24pm Candles <i>Shusan Purim</i>	16 Adar MAR 3 9:30am Services <i>Ki Tissa</i>
17 Tevet MAR 4 <i>Religious School Includes Purim Celebration</i>	18 Adar MAR 5	19 Adar MAR 6 <i>Religious School</i>	20 Adar MAR 7	21 Adar MAR 8 7:30pm Card Club	22 Adar MAR 9 6:00pm Minyan Shabbat Services 5:33pm Candles	23 Adar MAR 10 9:30am Services <i>Vayakhel-Pekudei</i>
24 Tevet MAR 11 <i>Religious School Scrip Orders due Daylight Savings Time Begins Move clocks forward</i>	25 Adar MAR 12	26 Adar MAR 13 <i>Religious School RSVPs due to Marla for MAR. 16 Dinner</i>	27 Adar MAR 14	28 Adar MAR 15 7:00pm Board Meeting	29 Adar MAR 16 6:00pm Women/Girl Led Rosh Chodesh Service & Shabbat Dinner 6:40pm Candles	1 Nisan MAR 17 9:30am Services Rosh Chodesh <i>Vayikra</i>
2 Adar MAR 18 <i>Religious School</i>	3 Adar MAR 19	4 Adar MAR 20 <i>Religious School</i>	5 Adar MAR 21	6 Adar MAR 22 7:30pm Card Club	7 Adar MAR 23 6:00pm Minyan Shabbat Services 6:48pm Candles	8 Adar MAR 24 9:30am Services <i>Tzav</i>
9 Adar MAR 25 <i>Religious School</i>	10 Adar MAR 26 7:00pm Special Congregation Meeting Members, Please Attend!	11 Adar MAR 27 <i>Religious School</i>	12 Adar MAR 28	13 Adar MAR 29	14 Adar MAR 30 <u>NO</u> Services First Seder 6:56pm Candles <i>Erev Pesach/1st Seder</i>	15 Adar MAR 31 9:30am Services <i>1st Day of Pesach Second Seder</i>