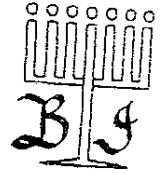


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C O N G R E G A T I O N  
*Beth Israel*



141 HILTON AVENUE HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550 Tel: 516-489-1818

RABBI MICHAEL EISENSTEIN

April  
2018

ניסן תשע"ח  
אייר תשע"ח

Nisan  
Iyar 5778

27 NISAN  
12 OMER 12

YOM HASHOAH  
HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL DAY

4 IYAR  
19 OMER 19

YOM HA'ATZMAUT  
ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY



YOM HA'ATZMAUT - Israel Independence Day.



## CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

CONSERVATIVE EGALITARIAN ADULT CONGREGATION

Congregation Beth Israel invites you and your friends to join us for Yom Hashoah as we remember 6 million Jews who perished during The Holocaust.

**Sunday, April 15, 2018 at 2:00 pm**  
**Congregation Beth Israel**  
**141 Hilton Avenue**  
**Hempstead, NY 11550**

Service followed by Guest Speaker and Author **Dr. David E. Fishman**, professor of Jewish History, whose recent book “**The Book Smugglers**” is the story of a little known group of ghetto inmates of Vilna, known as the “paper brigade” who rescued thousands of rare books, manuscripts and documents first from the Nazis and then from the Soviets.

Dr. Fishman has chronicled a story of spiritual resistance, bravery, friendship, romance and an unwavering devotion to saving the culture of Eastern European Jews during the Holocaust.

For more information, *please contact Susan Bass: 516-662-6800.*  
There is no fee for this event and is open to both members and non-members. We hope you can join us!

## B'NEINU (BETWEEN US)

*Is this Passover holiday different from all other Passover holidays?*

The most often asked question about Passover is not one of the Four Questions asked at the seder. A ruling (*Teshuva*) of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards a few years ago allowed *kitniyot* (legumes, rice and corn) to be consumed during Passover. However...

Before you change your holiday food shopping list, here are *some* of the arguments presented in the *teshuva* and in the dissenting opinion which must also be considered in making a decision. ***When making such decisions (such as whether or not to consume kitniyot during Pesach), a Jew is supposed to check with their local Rabbi (mara d'atra). Do NOT consider this article a final determination. Rather, please check with me if you want to know if it is permissible or not.***



The rabbis of the Mishnah period ruled that only five species of grains, including wheat and barley, may be used to bake matzah. When mixed with water, they ferment and become *chametz*. They also ruled that since sesame seeds and rice do not ferment but rather decay, they may be eaten. <sup>1</sup>Rabbi Yochanan ben Nuri was the only rabbi of the period to said that rice is a type of grain that can become chametz; thereby forbidding its consumption during Pesach.

Rabbis of the Talmud asked what cooked dishes mentioned in the Mishnah are to be served at the seder? <sup>2</sup>Rav Huna said: beets and rice. <sup>3</sup>Rava served it since it came out of the mouth of Rav Huna. <sup>4</sup>Rav Ashi said: learn from Rav Huna; no one follows the opinion of Rabbi Yochanan ben Nuri.

Later rabbis of the early middle ages, mostly in Europe, agreed on the five grains that could become chametz. <sup>5</sup>Maimonides: "*kitniyot such as rice, millet, beans, lentils, and the like cannot become chametz.*"

The prohibition, or more accurately, the custom

to not eating *kitniyot* and rice on Passover is first mentioned in France in the 13th century. The custom spread without one unifying reason. The *teshuva* mentions there being at least 10 different explanations, most of which point to it being "a mistaken" or "foolish" custom.

An overlying question now becomes: is it permissible to do away with mistaken or foolish customs. There is certainly a desire to maintain and preserve old customs. Ask me why I cut the ends of the brisket off before I cook it, or should you stand or remain seated when reciting the *Sh'ma*, or why do people getting an aliyah in that certain congregation in Chelm, always dip down by bending their knees when approaching the bimah.

Other reasons given for allowing *kitniyot* during Passover is that its prohibition detracts from the joy of the holiday by limiting permitted foods. It also creates an un-needed division between Ashkenazim and Sephardim in Israel.



As for maintaining the restriction, it should be noted that the *teshuva* was originally meant to apply to those (Ashkenazim) living in Israel. Honoring and maintaining custom (*minhag*) is a longstanding and strong tradition of ours. We continue to celebrate Passover & Shavuot for eight days while in Israel, as in the Torah, they are observed for only seven days. We observe two days for Rosh Hashanah and Shavuot; in Israel only one.



Join us for services over the holiday and learn more.

**PASSOVER SERVICES @ 9:30AM:**

First two days: Sat, March 31 and Sun, April 1

Last two days: Fri, April 6 & Sat, April 7 (Yizkor)

*Rabbi Michael Eisenstein*

516.547.3581 • [rabbi.michael@me.com](mailto:rabbi.michael@me.com)

<sup>1</sup>One of the *Tannaim* (rabbis who lived in the years 70-220 CE)

<sup>2</sup>Head of the Academy of Sura. Lived 216-296 CE

<sup>3</sup>Studied at the Academy of Pumbedita. Lived 280-352 CE

<sup>4</sup>First editor of Babylonian Talmud; re-established Academy of Sura. Lived 352-427 CE

<sup>5</sup>Moses ben Maimon, (1135-1204) *Laws of Chametz and Matzah* 5:1

## *Letter from the President*

I am pleased to announce that Congregation Beth Israel will begin the sale of tickets for our second **Super Raffle** this April. Last year's raffle was a huge success netting the congregation \$15,000. Once again, only 300 tickets will be sold at \$100 each. **The odds are only 300 to 1 that you can be the winner!** The Grand Prize is **\$10,000** and you will also have the opportunity to win 2nd prize which is \$1000, or five other prizes of \$500 each.

The success of this Super Raffle depends upon you and your participation. We would like each congregant (single or a couple) to purchase a minimum of two tickets. Not only do we want you to buy tickets but we would like you to spread the word to your family and friends. Give them the opportunity to be winners too. The faster the 300 tickets are sold, the faster we can have the drawing and announce the winners. There are also some incentives for you. The congregant who sells the most tickets will get \$500, and whoever sells the Grand Prize ticket will also get \$500.

I am depending upon the congregation to actively participate in this fundraising event. Your participation in selling these raffle tickets will help to keep our dues down at Beth Israel. This raffle will generate \$15,000 for CBI, money we desperately need to operate.

In the next few weeks you will be getting a call from a fellow congregant asking how many tickets you would like. Please take **additional tickets** and sell them to your friends and family. Since these tickets are numbered, it is important that they do not get destroyed. **All completed ticket stubs and checks must be mailed to Congregation Beth Israel; 141 Hilton Avenue, Hempstead, New York 11550. Any unsold tickets must also be returned to the synagogue.**

We are hoping the drawing will take place this fall, but it can not take place until ALL 300 tickets are sold. Keep in mind, you DO NOT have to be present at the drawing to win.

I am sure that the Super Raffle will be just as successful this year as last year. Hopefully, the tickets will sell out even faster this year with more participation from YOU in selling additional raffle tickets to your friends and family.

Good luck to everyone!

Richie

**Congregation Beth Israel presents our  
second SUPER RAFFLE !!!**

**GRAND PRIZE - \$10,000**

**Second Prize - \$1000**

**Third, Fourth, Fifth, Six & Seventh  
PRIZE - \$500**



*\$500 will also be given to the congregant who  
sells the most tickets, and another \$500 to the congregant who sells  
the winning GRAND PRIZE ticket.*

**GREAT ODDS— ONLY 300 TICKETS TO BE SOLD!  
COST FOR EACH TICKET IS A \$100 donation to CBI**

**HURRY BEFORE THEY SELL OUT!  
YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!**

**Drawing to be held once all tickets are sold.  
Winner need not be present to win.**

---

**YES, I WANT TO WIN \$10,000!! Please have a Raffle Captain contact me  
immediately!!**

**Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ number of tickets for me.**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_**

**Phone # \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please mail this to CBI at 141 Hilton Ave, Hempstead, NY 11550, ATT: SUPER RAFFLE**









## **SISTERHOOD NEWS & VIEWS by J Levy-Slatsky & L Levy**

**We** want to apologize for the missing March 2018 Sisterhood article, a separate copy is available at the temple. We just have to reiterate, in real time, the Purim Shpiel, performed Sunday March 4th was an amazing success on many fronts. First, the cast was wonderful, Sid Rosenzweig (King), Nat Levi (Haman) brought down the house, Laura Levy (Queen Vashti & many other roles was fabulous), Alan Mantis (Mordechai) was very believable, Muriel Levine (Announcer) perfect, Herb Karen (Constable) was very convincing, Yael Coppolino & Marion Salomon (Protestors and contestant singer), Suellen Agulnick (holding signs & helping backstage), Zak Geller (piano accompanist), and Judi Levy-Slatsky (Queen Esther Chamilton). And as Sid said, we are taking this on the road because a show like this must be performed more than once.

**Secondly**, our attendance was amazing, the largest in many a year, approx. 50 people. Thank you to all who attended; your support is so important to our continued success.

**Thirdly**, thanks to Ronnie Liebman for working in a hot kitchen, delivering to us delicious hot potato latkes and apple sauce. Ronnie also made all of the Revolutionary Purim hats and signs for our show. And although the show ended around 2:30 PM, we were still sitting around the tables eating, drinking and kibbitzing until 6:00 PM. Now that's the kind of afternoon we love. She also sold her beautiful jewelry and handbags were sold also. We still have additional merchandise for sale at very good prices.

**Unfortunately** our Coed Fashion Show will not happen this April. We know a lot of people were looking forward to it, however, these activities require Man(Woman) power; we are still planning to do it at some point, but we did not get a chairperson to head it up so..... ANYONE INTERESTED?

**We** have our **Sisterhood Shabbat, Friday May 25th at 6:45 PM**. There are still openings for English & Hebrew reading parts, contact Judi (917 575-5443) or Laura (516 532-1434) & are you planning to do the same part as last year? It's so much fun. CBI and Sisterhood have a lot of events to fill up your day in a great way. Don't be shy, give it a try. We have been asking members for their suggestions to make our temple more interactive. We welcome your interest.

**With** all of our FUN ACTIVITIES, it is all second to our Primary purpose which is to get together and enjoy communal praying. Friday Night Services are coming shortly, with a more relaxed atmosphere, and Saturday Services continue with the Tried & True.

**The** Purim Basket Drive was fulfilled; thank you to all who contributed, also **Terri Barkhordar** for stuffing, **Susan Drexler**, thank you for your calligraphy. We're continuing to need more people to volunteer for the telephone squad to spread the news, good & bad.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE WORKS: Movies, Stories of Passover Passed Celebrations, CapTel**

- 1) Next Book discussion May 6: "Stolen Beauty" by Laurie Lico Albanese, story of art, family & female empowerment.
- 2) **Rosh Chodesh**: A monthly lunch & learn session with the Rabbi, followed by self-lead meditation.
- 3) Recruiting all volunteers to help plan for next's years 2nd night of Passover, less work for Mother.

### **Future Sisterhood Meetings Dates**

**Sunday March 25th at 10:00 AM; Sunday April 8, 10:00 AM; Sunday May 6th 10:00 AM; Wed June 20th General & Board Meeting 7:30 PM**

**LOTS GOING ON; CHOOSE WHAT YOU LIKE THE BEST AND STILL HAVE TIME FOR COFFEE WITH FRIENDS.**

# 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

## Restaurant Gift Certificate Auction

Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup> --- 11 am

Dear Congregants ...and "Regulars" =====

After 8 years of running this truly fabulous event --- this years' auction will for the most part may well be my last—but who knows I may still get rejuvenated AND yet seek out a tenth!

For those of you who may ( or may not ) be familiar with the established format I may simply note that the auctions were run almost precisely as any Fine Arts Auction House would present , First Class, definitely, to wit:

- *A full and complete Professionally-Printed Auction Catalog of Long Islands Finest !!---encompassing about 60 Lots and well over 150 restaurants ( singular and also with most lots containing multiple listings).*
- *A dynamite selection of Silent Auction "eateries" of about 20 Lots*
- *A Super Raffle of exceptional values*
- *A sensational not-to-be-missed Sunday Brunch*

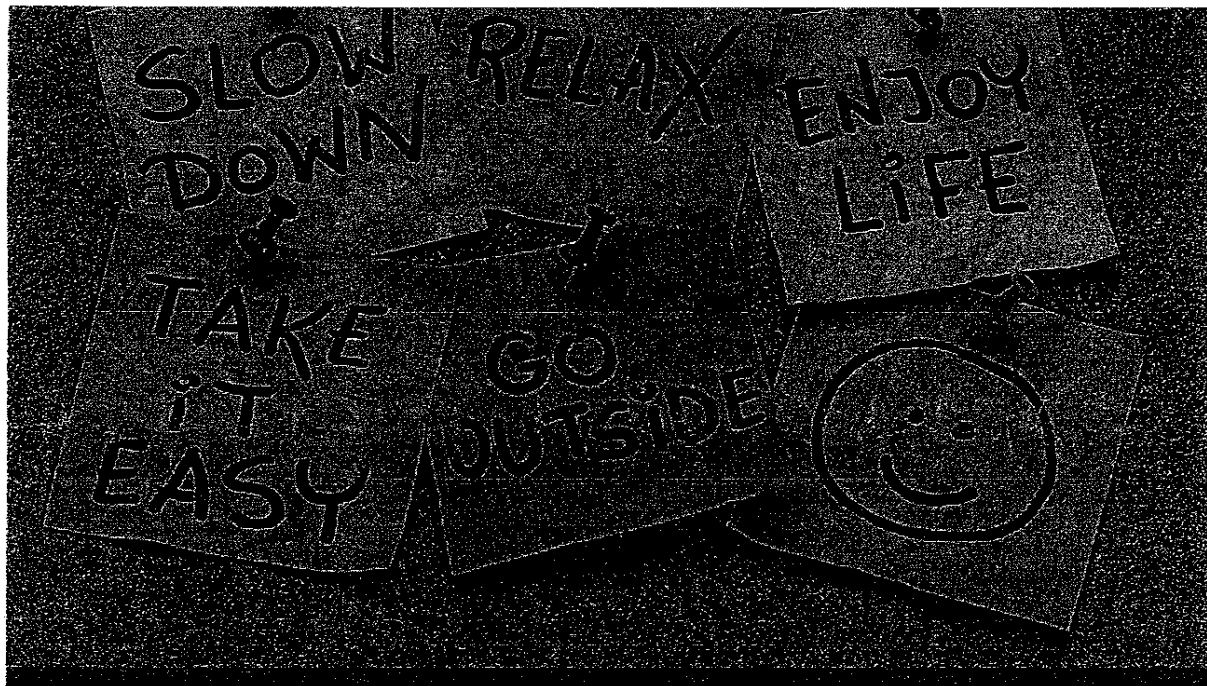
To put all of this together=== on an annual basis takes about 10 months of dedication (visiting the many eateries and oft times countless re-visitations )

My tank has run out of gas; without any doubts ! So this year we will have an Auction---let's call it an **Express Auction**--- Your familiar eateries presented and auctioned in a brief, condensed, and consolidated format.

I wish to personally thank those ( all ) of you ( I know I will be in trouble on this ) who have given fabulous assistance in these events--- including special appreciation to "my oft- times driver" Herb Karen; Ronnie Liebman who knows how to do the Raffles; Richie Krauss on the Tote Board and with Marianne Baker and Herb Karen on the Brunch Brigade; Robin Krauss and Barbara Karen with those speedy checkouts.

We shall see y'all in May. 'Till then Shalom !! **Don't Miss It !!**

Alan



# STRESS MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES!



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## Marching Toward Liberation

Passover reminds us to fight oppression | By Lizz Goldstein

*“Standing on the parted shores, we still believe what we were taught before ever we stood at Sinai’s foot; that wherever we go, it is eternally Egypt; that there is a better place, a promised land; that the winding way to that promise passes through the wilderness. That there is no way to get from here to there except by joining hands, marching together.”*

—*Mishkan T’filah*,  
a Reform prayer book,  
adapted from Michael Walzer’s  
*Exodus and Revolution*

FOLLOWING GOD’S DIRECTIVE, Moses told the enslaved Israelites that God “will bring you to the land” as He swore to their ancestors (Exodus 6:8). Despite that promise, neither Moses nor most of the generation he led out of Egypt ever entered the Promised Land. And when we sit down to the first seder on the evening of March 30, we won’t find this promise in the Haggadah. Indeed, the Torah itself ends with a new generation on the precipice. Why is there no happy ending to our formative text?

Perhaps it is because spiritually speaking, we—Jews and all of humankind—are still in the wilderness, not yet fully liberated. Though the ancient Israelites eventually reached the Land of Israel, today, many generations later, we see that oppression and hatred of the other remain potent and destructive.

We have seen many tragic examples of this in the United States over the past year, including last August when



CHRISTIANE GRAUERT

torch-carrying white supremacists marched in Charlottesville, Va. I was there to join like-minded friends and colleagues in an interfaith-led counter-protest, organized by the local group Congregate Charlottesville. What I saw there shocked and frightened me: neo-Nazis marching proudly with swastika banners. And even though Virginia, where I live, is an open-carry state, it marked the first time I saw people holding assault rifles.

In the weeks that followed, people of different faiths—Christian, Muslim, Jewish—came together to raise their voices for equality and justice. I spoke at a vigil in Washington, D.C. I followed Defend C’ville’s Twitter account to keep abreast of solidarity events that took place in Durham, N.C., Boston and New York City, where groups such as Black Lives Matter, the pro-immigrant Movimiento Cosecha and SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice, a white pro-justice movement) participated, essentially sending the message that “Our love is greater than your fear.” The response was beautiful in its spontaneity and earnestness. It is a shame we only seem to come together in the face of tragedy. What might we accomplish if these group leaders maintained contact as well as a presence in the media in order to continue to advocate for safety to Jews, Muslims, people of color, queer people—all those subject to bigotry.

Before the Charlottesville rally, I read an article by longtime civil rights strategist Eric K. Ward, “Skin in the Game: How Antisemitism Animates White Supremacy,” in *The Public Eye*, a publication of Political Research Associates. Ward, who is black, points out that many anti-racist activists don’t take anti-Semitism seriously. It is crucial, he wrote, to “recognize that antisemitism is not a sideshow to racism within white nationalist thought.... [It is the] fuel that white nationalist ideology uses to power its anti-black racism, its contempt for other people of color...”

Ward’s observations are a cogent footnote to American history: In the nearly 250 years since the United States was founded, anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination have not yet been eliminated. But then it also took God 200 years to heed the groaning of the Hebrews and bring them out of slavery and into Israel.

As Jews celebrate our redemption from Egypt, we should also remember that hatred and bias still have not been eradicated from the world. And in philosopher Michael Walzer’s words, there is only one way to leave the wilderness: “by joining hands, marching together.” **H**

Rabbi Lizz Goldstein is the spiritual leader of Reform Congregation Ner Shalom ([nershalomva.org](http://nershalomva.org)) in Prince William County, Va., and teaches at Geshur Jewish Day School in Fairfax.