

Why do we read the Hagaddah?

by Rabbi Shimon Apisdorf

The holiday of Passover marks the anniversary of the birth of the Jewish nation. The story of the Jewish nation is one of individuals who became a family who became a people. The great individuals who laid the spiritual foundation of Jewish peoplehood were Abraham and Sarah, their son and daughter-in-law Isaac and Rebecca, and their son and daughters-in-law Jacob, Rachel, and Leah.

From Jacob, Rachel, and Leah came a family of 70 people who, due to a famine in Israel, were forced to migrate to Egypt. In Egypt this family grew and prospered to such an extent that they eventually came to be seen as a threat by their Egyptian hosts. Respect and admiration turned to contempt, and finally to an organized program of enslavement and oppression. After 210 years, and a series of unheeded warnings by Moses to Pharaoh which resulted in the Ten Plagues, God liberated a nation which had grown from the original family of 70 people. Seven weeks later this newly conceived nation received the Torah at Mount Sinai.

The Haggadah is the story of the birth of the Jews as a people. It deals primarily with the events in Egypt which led from slavery to liberation, though it also spans the entire period from Abraham to the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. One could say that the Haggadah is our national birth certificate as well as our Declaration of Independence. More than just a historical document, it also speaks of the ideals and values which constitute the essence of our national consciousness and identity.

The word haggadah means to tell, or to relate. The Haggadah is a vivid narrative which is set in the context of a parent-child dialogue. Passover, with the Haggadah as its focus, tells every Jew three things: who you are, where you came from, and what you stand for.

The message inherent in the Haggadah is that Jewish identity and continuity hinge on encouraging children to ask questions -- and being prepared as parents to provide sensitive and substantive answers. In Judaism, being learned, knowledgeable, and wise is not only a goal, it's a prerequisite.

Putting the Seder into Perspective

by Rabbi Shraga Simmons

The story is told of Dan and Bob, two homeless people who are talking one afternoon.

Dan says: "Do you know what tonight is? It's the holiday of Passover. That's when the Jews have the Seder feast -- the fine food and delicious wine -- all served in the most elegant manner. I went to a Seder last year and it was incredible. All

you have to do is go to the synagogue tonight, and when the services are over, someone will invite you to their home."

That evening, the two friends stand in the back of the synagogue waiting. Sure enough, when services are over, they each get invited to separate homes for the Seder. "Good luck," says Dan, "you're gonna love it."

At the Seder, Bob is really excited. He's hungry and hasn't had a home-cooked meal in months. He can already smell the delicious food wafting from the kitchen. He sits patiently as the family reads in a language he doesn't understand. He's getting hungrier, but finally he sees a plate of food being passed around. But it's only little pieces of celery (for the "Karpas")! After this, they go back to reading from the book.

An hour goes by and Bob is really hungry now. He's willing to eat anything. Finally they pass around some Matzah and Bob takes a big piece. Then they serve a bowl of some white vegetable and Bob heaps a big pile on his plate. He stuffs his mouth full with it and ... FIRE!!! The horseradish burns Bob's mouth and stomach, and he runs out of the house screaming and cursing.

Later that night, Bob and Dan meet up again. "I'm so mad at you," shouts Bob. "You sent me to a Seder and it was terrible."

"What do you mean?" says Dan. "At my house, they had incredible fish, soup, chicken, kugel and dessert! All you had to do was hang in there and you'd have gotten yours, too!"

This story captures the theme of Passover night. On one level, it is a metaphor for the dramatic turnaround of events the Jews experienced in Egypt. They went from the bitterness of slavery to the glory of freedom -- all in one day. So too, when we feel enslaved and in pain,

remember that God can redeem us in the blink of an eye.

On another level, this story is a good introduction to the Seder itself. The Seder goes from bitter herbs to feast in a matter of moments. For while the Haggadah may seem long at times, hang in there. Food is on the way!

(story attributed to Rabbi Nachman of Breslov)



Services

Friday Evening 8:00 p.m.

Saturday Morning 9:30 a.m.

Minyan

Sunday Morning 9:15 a.m.

Monday, Wednesday
and Thursday Evenings 7:40 p.m.

Lower level chapel

Refer to calendar for holiday service times.

Congregation Kol Emeth Sends Deepest Sympathy To: **Sunnie Levin** and her family on the loss of their beloved husband, father and grandfather, **Fred Levin**.

Men's Club News

At the March Men's Club Breakfast the story of Molly Goldberg was brought to life in a film documentary. Also, the Old World Theatre Company, under the direction of **Bill Raffeld** presented a hilarious performance of one of Gertrude Berg's shows entitled "The Baby Naming". This was a double treat for over 40 members and guests in attendance. As usual, a delicious breakfast was served.

At the April Men's Club Breakfast our featured speaker will be Hy Speck, a noted lecturer, docent and architecture enthusiast. His topic will be "*The Life of Frank Sinatra*". Hy is an excellent speaker and we expect a large attendance. Please join us.

Herman Nussbaum
Men's Club Representative

Sisterhood News

I want to wish our Snow Birds a safe return to our beautiful state. I also want to wish everyone at Kol Emeth and our friends a very Healthy and Happy Passover.

Sisterhood's winter break is almost done and we will be back in business starting with our next book review with Selma Katz reviewing "*Let the Great World Spin*" by Colum McCann on Tuesday March 20th at 1:30 pm. Our April book review with Selma Katz reviewing "*The Adventures of Augie March*" by Saul Bellow will take place on April 24th at 1:30 pm. Both women and men are invited to attend and you do not even have to read the book!

We also want you to save the date Saturday, May 12th when Sisterhood will be having our annual "Mother's Day Honoree" Shabbat and Kiddush luncheon. Watch your mail for more information and who we will be honoring.

If you have any ideas or would like to help plan an event for Sisterhood, please contact **Sheila Wexler** or myself, **Sarine Rohde**.

Thanks for joining us at Kol Emeth's Annual Purim Dinner, and also for attending the Men's Club breakfast with **William Raffeld** and the OWTC. Again everyone is welcome to join in and please watch your mail for flyers and additional information.

Again I want to wish everyone a very Healthy, Happy and Safe Spring.

Sarine Rohde
Sisterhood Representative

Friday Night Speaker

We have read about the turmoil in the Middle East. Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Yemen are all in a state of flux. Fighting, killing bombing is a vicious occupation in these countries. Iran is trying to develop a nuclear bomb. Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank are determined to overcome Israel.

On Friday evening, March 23, at 8:00 PM our speaker will be Robert Schwartz, from the office of the Consulate General of Israel. He will discuss "Israel, Iran, Arab Spring." Should there be peace at any price? How do the above problems impact on Israel and what should Israel's response be?

Please join us for this lecture to gain information on these topics.

Marvin Nussbaum
Program, Activities Committee

Remember... HaKol's deadline is the 10th of the month prior to publication. Thanks!

Message From The President

Survey Responses:

Why do we belong to a synagogue?

Why do we belong to Kol Emeth?

We posed these questions to all Kol Emethers last month in a survey. Thank you to all who responded. We hoped to learn why Kol Emeth Jews belong to a synagogue and what Kol Emeth Jews like about Kol Emeth as we engage in marketing activities. I think the responses reaffirm our sense of who we are.

Seven major themes as to why we belong to a synagogue emerged:

To identify with Judaism

To continue the tradition

To celebrate the culture and heritage

To pray

To learn

To find spiritual fulfillment

To connect with a Jewish community

The five top reasons why we belong to Kol Emeth:

"We have many friends at Kol Emeth."

"Kol Emethers are down to earth, unpretentious, warm and friendly."

"We love the Rabbi"

"Kol Emeth is conveniently located with parking available."

"There is plenty of opportunity to serve."

Paintings:

Sarita Halpern, of blessed memory, bequeathed a set of seven lithographs by Heinz Seelig. They are entitled "*The Seven Days of Creation*." An art appraiser appraised them at \$400 each. We plan to sell them at auction unless a Kol Emeth member makes a reasonable offer. The lithographs are available in the office for anyone interested in purchasing them.

Nominating Committee:

It's that time of year again. Anyone who wants to serve as an officer or who wants to serve on the board of directors for 2012/2013 should contact one of the members of the nominating committee. Thank you to **Fern Katz, Linda Green, Marv Nussbaum, Marcia Nussbaum, Elaine Snow, Jackie Balter, Mike Okmin, Larry Donchin, and Janine Oberrotman** for volunteering to serve on the committee this year.

Board Amendments:

Our board of directors is evaluating proposals to amend our bylaws. Our board was originally designed for a congregation of 300 families. Now that we number about 140 families, we are re-evaluating whether we need such a large board and whether we need so many officers. If the board approves the proposal to reduce the size of the board and the number of officers, the proposal will be submitted for approval at our annual meeting.

New Member Activity:

Please start thinking about who you will invite to our June 3 event "*Those Were the Days Radio Players*." This is an event at which we hope to connect with potential new members for Kol Emeth.

United Synagogue:

Thank you to **Jackie Balter, Elaine Snow, and Joyce Avers** for attending a United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism meeting in January. Chicago-area conservative synagogues are hoping to resume regional activities.

Newly Revised Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday (Spring hours)

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

We Celebrate... We Pray... We Remember...

MAZEL TOV TO

Don & Roberta Charous on the engagement of their granddaughter Linda Levin to Ravi Moreen. An August wedding is planned.
Allen & Ingrid Morgan on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Jason Morgan on becoming Bar Mitzvah

GENERAL & SIMCHA DONATION

Sandy & Johnny Cochrane for Fran Berliner's 75th Birthday

Donations have been made in memory of **Fred Levin** by the following CKE members:

Sandy & Arnie April	Fern & Bernard Katz
Joyce Avers	Paulette Lieb
Jacqueline Balter	Ruth & Herman Nussbaum
Richard & Micki Bloom	Iris & Michael Okmin
Sandy & Johnny Cochrane	Lynda & Ron Orlean
Helene & Leonard Colen	William Raffeld
Marilyn & Sheldon Cooper	Sarine & Robert Rohde
Herbert Daitchman	Elaine & Richard Snow
Irving and Beverly Fishman	Doris & David Sohn
The Jaffe Family	Sheila Wexler
	Eileen & Ron Yedlin

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

Dr. Jane Halpert

CONGREGATION WANTS TO WISH A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Ruth Nussbaum
Claire Foreman (recuperating at Alden Northshore after knee surgery)
Julia Haun at St Francis Hospital

DONATIONS FOR SPEEDY & COMPLETE RECOVERIES

Ruth Nussbaum
Claire Foreman
Rich & Micki Bloom
Bill Raffeld

YAHZEIT DONATIONS

Nissin Behar in memory of his beloved father Jose Behar
Harry & Margaret Besser in memory of Dora Besser
Richard and Micki Bloom in memory of beloved mother Edith Bloom
Alfred & Rachel Ejber Birnbaum in memory of a loved one
Norman Elkin in memory of beloved mother Fannie Elkin
Claire Foreman in memory of Fannie Elkin
Chester Gaynes in memory of beloved father Albert S. Gaynes
Beverly Gilbert in memory of her beloved father Harry Weintraub
Elaine Heilig in memory of beloved mother Lillian Silverman
Marlene Iser in memory of Jacob Baum
Marlene Iser in memory of her beloved father Philip Krupnick
Bernard and Fern Katz in memory of Ruth Katz
Irene Kogan in memory of beloved husband Bernard Kogan
Gloria Manus in memory of beloved father Sam Grossblatt
Sheila Miller in memory of beloved parents
Esther Peven in memory of beloved husband Sidney Peven
Esther Peven in memory of her beloved mother Pauline Slavick
Irina Polevoy in memory of beloved father Gersh (Grigory) Breyolo
Harriet Reifer in memory of mother Sara Ovrutzka
Sarine B. Rohde in memory of beloved brother Stewart Balter and beloved aunt Anne and parents
Jean Rosenblum in memory of beloved husband Marvin Rosenblum

Save The Date--And Save \$\$\$

The CONGREGATION KOL EMETH CULMINATING EVENT is scheduled for Sunday, June 24. Please watch for a mailing that will explain what each of us needs to do to make this a successful event.

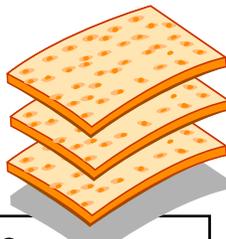
Learn what you can do to offset the cost to attend this fun event. (**Earning Fund Credits are key!**) Earning fund credits can be acquired in many ways: purchasing raffle tickets prior to the event, selling ads, purchasing space in the adbook to celebrate simchas or to remember loved ones, sending Leagrams, sending Happy Day cards and more. More information to come.

Thank you to **Roger Fischhoff** and the committee members for contributing their time and effort towards making this an awesome event.

Oy Vay

Saul Epstein was taking an oral exam in his English as a Second Language class. He was asked to spell "cultivate," and he spelled it correctly. He was then asked to use the word in a sentence, and, with a big smile, responded:

"Last vinter on a very cold day, I vas waiting for a bus, but it vas too cultivate, so I took the subway home."



THANK YOU.. THANK YOU..

Helene Colen - To All the Kol Emeth people that sent me Happy Birthday wishes, I just want to say "THANK YOU".

Len Colen - To All the Kol Emethers who sent a Leagram to me on my three quarter century birthday; Thank you and thank you again.

Stephen Jaffe & Gail Myers Jaffe - Thank you to the many members and friends who remembered us with Leagrams on our anniversary. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated!

Leona Katzman - To My C.K.E. Friends, Many thanks for your kind wishes for a Speedy Recovery. It has been a long stretch

but I'm getting there. Again, thanks and know I love you all.

Esther Peven - I wish to thank everyone who sent Leagrams to me on my birthday. What a wonderful surprise to receive so many!

David & Lorri Rosen - Thank you so much to our Kol Emeth Family for your thoughtful anniversary wishes. We miss all of you, but it is difficult to ask our caregiver to take us every week as had become our habit. The Golden Years have become tarnished but we are trying to adjust.

Sheila Wexler - Thank you for all the donations sent in memory of Shirley Ship.

Are you in the process of making a will? Are you making up a bequest? If you are, please remember Kol Emeth in your plans.

We appreciate and encourage newsletter contributions from all our congregants but, hard copy (paper) submissions will no longer be accepted. If you are unable to submit electronically, please contact **Sharon** in the office. All emails must be sent to hakol@fischhoff.com. Articles must be sent by the 10th for the following month's newsletter. Ha Kol is compiled by **Sharon Altman** and edited by **Roger Fischhoff**.

Please Take Special Note

Our bank is now charging a \$25.00 fee for checks that are returned for whatever reason. This does not pertain to only NSF checks. So please make sure that your check is good. Thank you.

Congregation Kol Emeth

5130 West Touhy Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60077



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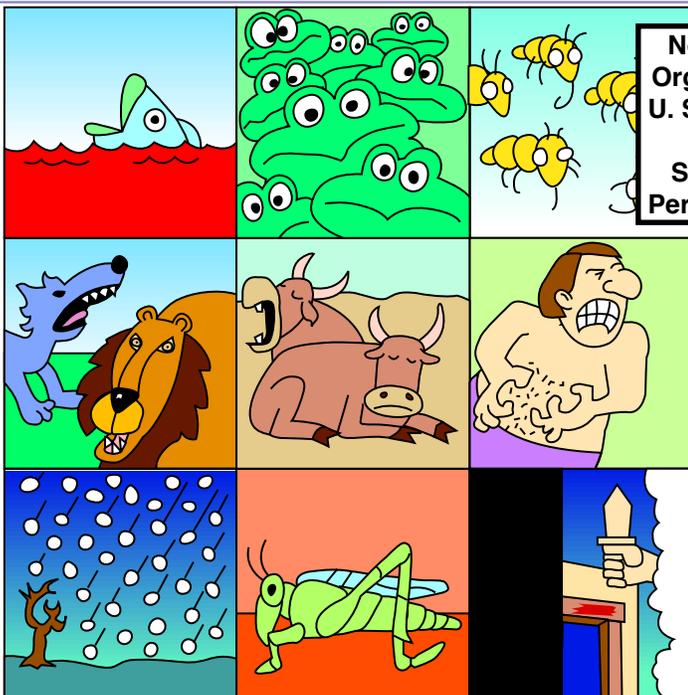
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Yoo-Hoo, Men's Club Breakfast Vas Zehr Gut!

The Kol Emeth Men's Club presentation of *Breakfast with Bill Raffeld and Actors from The Old World Theatre Company was most enjoyable.*

On Sunday morning March 11, 2012 the festivities began with minyon at 9:15am followed by a delicious breakfast at 10:00am. At 10:30 **Bill Raffeld** and actors from The Old World Theatre Company presented "Yoo-hoo, Mrs. Goldberg" a look back at the good old days of radio, featuring the most popular radio show of its day--The Goldbergs and its creator Gertrude Berg.

Bill Raffeld and The Old World Theatre actors recreated a short episode of The Goldbergs along with selections from a film docudrama depicting the life and times of Gertrude Berg and The Goldbergs. It was a wonderfully delightful, nostalgic look at the most popular radio and subsequently television show of its day.

If you missed this, "dahlings" you missed a great program.



The Lives Of Jewish Women In Israel

Have you been wondering what life is like in Israel for women? Does it differ for religious, secular, orthodox, urban educated, or working mothers? Do women have equal wages for equal work? What about military service? What is the picture of the daily life of the Israeli woman soldier? What about the headlines about "kosher" bus lines, "kosher streets", spitting on religious school girls & women singing in the Israel Defense Forces?

Come join your Kol Emeth family for a great lecture by Moshe Pomerantz on April 29 at 10:00am. We'll have an overview, lecture, movie and discussion. Light lunch will top it off. We'll be looking forward to you and any friends and any family. Everyone welcome.

Marcia Nussbaum
The PAC Committee

The Odd Couple Comes to Kol Emeth March 24th!

The Old World Theatre Company's next production is the popular comedy *The Odd Couple* by Neil Simon. This very well known and very funny comedy has been one of Neil Simon's most enduring and successful plays.

Opening on Broadway in 1965, it has played around the world for over 40 years. Many people will also remember it as a most hilarious film (1968) and as a situation comedy on television from 1970 to 1975. And finally *The Odd Couple* was rewritten in 1985 as a vehicle for two women rather than two men. The Old World Theatre's production recreates the original version and opens on Saturday March 24 at 8 pm. Subsequent performances are Sunday March 25 at 2:30 pm, Saturday March 31 at 8 pm and Sunday April 1 at 2:30 pm.

Reserve your tickets now-- to assure yourselves of a hilarious experience in the theatre. The accolades for the first two Old World Theatre productions so far this season have received glowing reception from CKE audiences, keeping intact a record of excellence for all of OWTC's plays. Tickets are \$18.00 for CKE members and \$22.00 for non members. Call **Sharon** in the office at 847-673-3370.

See you in the theatre!

Office Observations

To CKE Members and all who receive Yahrzeit Letters

The March letters have been sent. If you have not received a letter or any information is not correct, please call **Sharon** in the office as soon as possible to make the appropriate changes. Thank You.

Chicago Jewish News and The Chicago Jewish Star are available here at the Synagogue.

Calendars are back in the office. If you need one or two, don't hesitate to stop in.



The Immigrant Seder

by Rabbi Leiby Burnham

• Nicholas Mycroft Christensen, a 16-year-old German-born high school student living in Alabama didn't hear well. Despite using a hearing aid, he often had no idea what people were saying. So he headed to his parents' garage and hunkered down. Two years later he emerged with a new device that significantly improves word recognition. It uses an algorithm he invented called "EarMeNow" that filters words out of background.

• Yifan Li, the prodigal son of Zhuqing Li and Yun Zhou, knows the importance of good eyes. An avid fencer and internationally recognized pianist, Yifan constantly follows the minutest of movements. Yet Yifan is aware of the great shortage of retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) cells, cells that when transplanted into the human eye, changes the lives of those with visual impairments. So Yifan took stem cell lines from mice, worked his magic in the lab, and enabled scientists to use them to grow retinal cells. Problem solved, let's get back to fencing!

• Akhil Mathew, an Indian-born high school student in New Jersey, changed the way we track packages. For fun, he helps write college level math textbooks. On the other coast, Sarine Shahmirian, a California high school senior of Armenian descent, uses her spare time to create cancer treatments that are both effective and non-abrasive to the body. She goes back to Armenia on vacation to rebuild homes and protect the environment.

These high school students were finalists in this year's Intel Science Talent Search. Of 1,736 applicants, the field was narrowed to 40 finalists. As soon as I read the list, something was glaringly obvious: over two-thirds of the total group, 27 of them, were immigrants or children of immigrants. They came from a variety of countries, including Israel, Uganda, Turkey, Germany and Armenia, with China and India the clear favorites.

Immigrants only make up 12.4% of the U.S. population, yet they took 67% of the honors at the nation's most prestigious talent searches. Why is this? What drives immigrants to excel, to push themselves much harder than people who have lived here for generations?

The sociological explanation most commonly given for this phenomenon is that immigrants are often coming from a place where living conditions and freedoms are severely limited, either by communist governments or crushing poverty. China and India, the two countries whose immigrants account for 53% of the finalists, both have over a billion people and rampant poverty. When living with intense constrictions, a society develops a strong desire to get ahead. Knowing that education is one of the keys to social mobility, the emphasis in these cultures on education and hard work is paramount.

Americans, on the other hand, are enjoying a generation of unparalleled wealth. People rarely die of hunger in the U.S., millions living in absolute squalor is not rampant. The overall standard of living in the U.S. today is higher than it ever was in history.

The unfortunate byproduct of this sustained wealth is that many American students lack the hunger, drive, and work ethic of their immigrant counterparts. The further we get from the challenging environments our grandparents and great-grandparents experienced, the less we feel the urgency to fight for what they would have fought for.

Egyptian Crucible

Our spiritual life presents the same challenge. When the Jews came out of Egypt, they were on fire. They had just completed 210 years of intense suffering. Physically, they were forced into harsh slavery, and beaten into submission. Psychologically they were taught to think they were worthless, consigned to endless slavery. But then God redeemed them from the mightiest nation in the world in a series of earth-shattering miracles.

Freedom unleashed the strongest desire to get ahead, to change their lives for the better, and change the world with them. God provided them with the perfect tool, the Torah, which they embraced wholeheartedly.

But that was thousands of years ago. We never experienced slavery, we never felt the pain, we never saw the miracles, and as a result we often lack the drive and the work ethic to get ahead spiritually the way that previous generations might have felt.

The Passover Seder is the remedy for this sociological phenomenon. "In every generation, each individual is obligated to see himself as if he actually went out of Egypt" (Talmud - Pesachim 116b). The purpose of the Seder is to recreate the feeling of getting liberated from a place of constriction. It is an exercise of trying to regain the sense of wonderment our forefathers felt upon being redeemed and the subsequent desire to reach for the sky. The Seder is supposed to be the fuel that inspires the rest of the year.

We do this by detailing the harrowing difficulties our ancestors felt, the backbreaking labor they endured, but even more the total loss of control over their lives that they felt. But we go from discussing the lowest places to the overwhelming joy they experienced as God rescued them. Painting the door red, putting the sign out that showed their readiness to take control of their lives, God lifted them up and carried them out on eagles' wings.

The success of our Seder is not in how fluffy the matzah balls are, nor how many pounds of matzah or bottles of Manishevitz we consume, but in how much we recreate a sense of exodus through our discussions and action. How much we can involve the children so that they stay and learn instead of playing with their cousins in the basement. How much we leave the Seder feeling like someone who just got out of a place of constriction, and has found the pathway to redemption.

Just like in the Intel Talent Search, in the Seder Talent Search it is always the "immigrants" who have just come out of Egypt who take the big prizes. And it will be we immigrants who will propel us out of our current complacent state and into our final exodus.

Recipes and menus for Passover are always a challenge – sometimes in a positive way. It's nice to be pushed to new levels of creativity and culinary artistry, and to discover you can actually make a lot of delicious food for Passover (your family and guests will love you for it; your waistline is another story!) Try this menu this Yom Tov and just wait for the rave reviews. It is a delight to the eyes and the palate. For more “gourmet” Passover recipes, please visit www.gourmetpassovercooking.com.

Sauteed Tuna with Tomato Salsa

2 tablespoons olive oil
4 tuna steaks (about 1/4 pound each)
4 tomatoes, chopped
1 small red onion, chopped
1 teaspoon minced garlic
3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
3 tablespoons red wine
1 teaspoon minced rosemary
Salt and pepper to taste

Heat oil in skillet over medium-high heat. Sauté tuna on both sides – 5 minutes per side for a red to pink inside, longer if you want the inside to get really cooked. In the meantime combine all remaining ingredients and mix well. Serve atop or alongside the tuna.

Veal Stew with Onions and Peppers

2 pounds veal stew meat
2 tablespoons potato starch
1/2 teaspoon pepper
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 red onion, chopped
1 red pepper, chopped
1 yellow pepper, chopped
1 orange pepper, chopped
1 cup chicken stock
1 cup white wine

Dredge veal in potato starch and pepper. Heat oil in a Dutch oven over a medium heat. Add veal and sauté until browned on all sides. Add vegetables and continue sautéing – about 10 minutes. Add chicken stock and wine and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 1 to 2 hours.

Sweet Red Cabbage

2 tablespoons oil
1 red cabbage, chopped into medium-sized pieces
1 onion, chopped
2 apples, chopped
1/2 cup cider vinegar
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup red wine

Heat oil and sauté cabbage and onion over medium heat until softened. Add apples, vinegar and sugar. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer for about 20 minutes. Add wine and simmer 5 minutes longer.

Eggplant and Green Pepper Kugel

1 large eggplant (about 2 pounds)
1 onion, diced
1 red pepper, diced
2 tablespoons pine nuts
1/4 cup olive oil

2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
2 large eggs, lightly beaten
1 matza, crumbled
2 tablespoons margarine

Peel the eggplant and dice in 2-inch cubes. Cook in simmering salted water to cover until the eggplant is tender about 20 minutes. Drain and mash.

Meanwhile, sauté the onion, pepper, and pine nuts in olive oil over medium heat until the vegetables are tender but not crisp. Combine with the basil and salt and pepper.

Mix the eggplant with the lightly beaten eggs as well as the vegetable mixture. Add the matza and mix well. Place in a greased casserole and dot with butter or margarine. Bake in a preheated 350° oven for 35 minutes or until golden brown on top and crusty on the sides.

Yield : 6 to 8 servings

What Our “Stuff” Says About Us

In the 1920's a lone Jewish businessman settled in Narimbia, then a German colony in Africa. When he died without family, his small circle of friends decided they would give him a Jewish burial.

Knowing little of what a Jewish burial entailed, they wrote to their friends in Europe asking what they should do. Their friends informed them that they should engrave a Jewish Star with some Hebrew lettering on the tombstone.

Engraving the Jewish Star was easy enough, but Hebrew lettering in the distant colony was difficult to find (back in the days before faxes and internet access). So they went through the deceased's belongings looking for some lettering. They searched his house, until one of his friends said, “I found it!”. There in the cupboard was an old box with Hebrew lettering.

They created a tombstone with a Jewish Star and engraved the Hebrew writing from the box - כשר לפסח “Kosher for Passover”. It was a box of matzoh.

This tombstone still stands today in a cemetery in Narimbia; the Hebrew letters were engraved upside down.

A Jew in a far-off place, both physically and spiritually, still felt the need to connect to G-d on Passover. Little did he know the far-reaching effects that box of matzoh would have for him.

Matzoh is called the “food of faith”, for with only matzoh on their backs, the Jews followed G-d out of Egypt into the desert. It was not a coincidence that it was through matzoh that this businessman, who was in his own wilderness, chose to maintain his relationship with G-d.

Let's not wait until we feel like we are in a wilderness to connect with G-d. Let's eat matzoh this Passover and renew our covenant with Him.

Our “stuff” tells a lot about who we are. Having matzoh, Jewish books, ritual objects or Jewish artwork enriches and enhances our identity. When a person walks into our home, he should be able to feel that it is a Jewish home.

Hoping your home is filled with many “Kosher for Passover” things on Passover and Kosher “stuff” throughout the whole year.

*Wishing all a happy and healthy Passover,
Roger and Trudye Fischoff*

This is a bonus page that does not appear in the printed version.

CONGREGATION KOL EMETH SISTERHOOD
5130 WEST TOUHY AVE SKOKIE, IL 60077
847-673-3370 **847-673-3376 FAX**

PLEASE JOIN US ON
TUESDAY MARCH 20th AT 1:30 P.M.

WE WILL BE REVIEWING
“LET THE GREAT WORLD SPIN”
BY COLUM MC CANN

AND
ON TUESDAY APRIL 24th AT 1:30 P.M.

WE WILL BE REVIEWING
“THE ADVERTURES OF AUGIE MARCH”
BY SAUL BELLOW

SELMA KATZ, REVIEWER

PLEASE R.S.V.P. TO SELMA
AT 847-433-2078

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND – MEN & WOMEN!
\$5.00 DONATION

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PAC Committee
M. Nussbaum

Your Custom Calendar Is Just Moments Away!!!

All calendars are now available on kolemethskokie.org any *time* you want and in any *form* you want.

Go to KolEmethSkokie.org and click on the calendar link under the main photo and you will see a list of the next two weeks' events. Click on the link at the bottom and you'll see a list of the following two weeks.

If you wish to see the month at a glance just select "view by month". Click on anything in blue and you'll see all the details of the event.

You can also focus in on any specific type of events by clicking to the right of "all categories" and selecting the category(s) in which you are interested. The calendar will then only show those categories.

Now go down to the bottom and click on printer friendly version and print your custom calendar.

Are you planning a simcha in the next few years?

You can now look up the dates of Jewish holidays on our calendar

through the end of 2023. (Please note... You should always check with **Rabbi Schechter** to make sure that certain "black out" periods are avoided.)

