

Message From The Rabbi



It is quite remarkable that Passover, the holiday which commemorates the Exodus, or leaving ones home, is the holiday that most makes us think of home. I know that as we approach the holiday, I remem-

ber vividly all the tastes and smells of my childhood Pesach in London. The night before Pesach, my father and I would lay down certain bits of Chametz over the house, and then go looking for them with a candle and feather, all of these pieces to be burned the next day. Of course, all the other chometz was supposed to be out of sight when this happened, and I remember a slight explosion when my mother had inadvertently left out all the food we were supposed to have for breakfast the following morning! Technically we should have taken that and burned it too. I do not remember how the problem was resolved.

The first Seder was the following evening. But in the morning we would go to the synagogue and attend a special Siyum, or completion class, for the first-born, so that they could avoid fasting. (Our service at Kol Emeth will be at 8 a.m. on Monday, March 25th.) First-born males (and according to some authorities, females) are supposed to fast in gratitude for not suffering the fate of the Egyptian first-born in the tenth plague. But the fast can be avoided if the first-born completes some Jewish study and eats a meal thereafter. It was on one of these occasions that I learned something about my family history.

My father told me he wasn't going to the synagogue that morning. I told him I was surprised, because then, as the first-born, he would have to fast. "But I am not a firstborn" he said. And this was how I learned that there was an older brother, Yosef Leyb, who died as an Austrian prisoner-of-war in an Italian prison camp just after World War I.

During the day, the time after the Chametz has been burned and before the Seder in the evening, is a kind of dietary limbo--one is not supposed to eat Chametz

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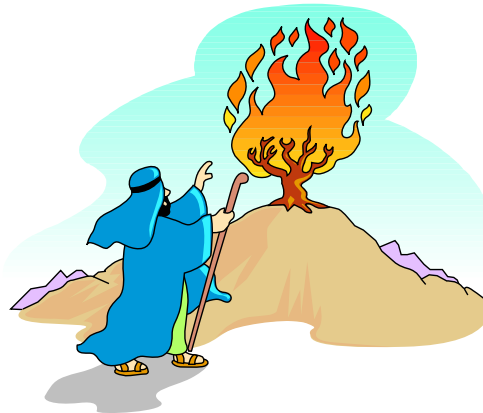
Message From The President

As the holiday of Passover approaches, it is a reminder that spring is around the corner. And it is a joyous time for us to come out of the "hibernation" of winter and renew our family ties during Passover. And at Kol Emeth the signs of spring also bring forth many occasions for getting together and celebrating our family ties and our Jewish faith with each other.

Our Shabbat services, on Friday evening and Saturday morning, give us the opportunity to do just that. This is the time of the year when everything outside feels fresh, clean and green. Plants, trees and flowers are budding. And the activities at Kol Emeth start to pick up steam giving us the opportunity to share time together.

Please take note of the many activities for you to enjoy that are described in the various articles in this HaKol issue. The Sisterhood, Men's Club, Old World Theatre and the Pac committee all have events planned during the spring. Come and enjoy these events with each other! Most of all come and share Shabbat with your Kol Emeth family --renewing ties with old friends and meeting some of the new friends who have joined our ranks!

William Raffeld, President



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	

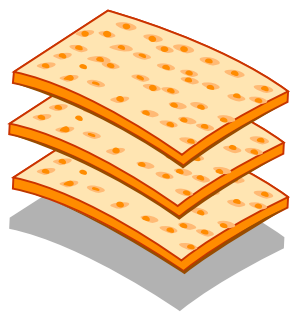
Refer to calendar for holiday service times.

Sisterhood News

As we approach the first day of Spring and the weather is warming up our Sisterhood agenda is off and running with a couple of dates to remember.

Our Book Review group will meet on Tuesday, April 9th at 1:30 p.m. at Congregation Kol Emeth. The book being reviewed is "Gone Girl" by Flynn Gillian. \$5 donation. Please join us.

Sisterhood enjoyed another successful year beginning with our New Year's Greeting Book followed by our Membership Dinner, Torah Fund Luncheon, Book Clubs, a program with the Men's Club and our upcoming Mother's Day Shabbat and Kiddush luncheon on May 11th honoring our Sisterhood Board.



Our former Melton graduates were delighted to welcome one of our teachers, Mary Ann Novak, to Kol Emeth for adult education.

Watch for information on our upcoming summer outing to the Chicago Historical Society. Everyone will be welcome.

Support your Sisterhood by sending birthday and anniversary Leagrams to your favorite people. All completed forms are to be returned to **Phyllis Bower** as soon as possible. We also have Happy Day Cards for all occasions. Just call **Sheila Wexler** at 847-562-9573.

If you have any programs or ideas for the coming year, 2013 - 2014, please send to **Sarine Rhode** before the calendar meeting in June. Anyone interested in being on the Sisterhood Board please contact **Sheila Wexler**.

May each cup of Passover wine be filled with sweetness during this holiday season and may you and your family be blessed with happiness and good health year after year.

Happy Passover,
Jacqueline Balter and Sheila Wexler

Congregation Kol Emeth Sends Deepest Sympathy To

The Zinman Families on the deaths of **Jan Zinman** and her beloved son, **Mark Zinman**

Yahrzeit/Yizkor Donations

Jacqueline Balter	Shirley and Alfred Kleifield
Sol Bernstein	Sondra and Max Lorig
Toby Blitz	Ann and Martin Moltz
Rich and Micki Bloom	Bernie Perlstein
Leona Boris	Lois Schwartz
Dr. Ronald & Carolyn Feingold	Iris and Richard Sommer
Clara Foreman	Charlene Urow
Linda Halperin	Brian Weiner & Rivka Coren Weiner
Brian Katzman	Sheila Wexler
Leona Katzman	

Should you wish to honor the memory of your beloved departed with a permanent Memorial Plaque, please contact the synagogue office at 847-673-3370 for additional information.

Men's Club News

"Identity Theft" Don't let it happen to you!

The next Men's Club Breakfast will be held on Sunday, April 14, at 10:00 a.m. after the 9:15 a.m. Minyan. Our great speaker will be officer Joseph Marzigliano of the Skokie Police Department. His topic will be "Identity Theft" and other important issues. Men and women should be aware of this problem and what to do about it.

Please call **Judy** at 847-673-3370 for a reservation by April 10, 2013 so that we know how many to prepare for.

Herman Nussbaum

THANK YOU... THANK YOU...

Trudye Fischhoff - Thanks to our wonderful Kol Emeth family for all the good wishes and Leagrams sent for my recent 29th birthday (NOT!). All kidding aside, you made my day. It's been said before, but it bears repeating.."Kol Emeth friends you are the BEST!!"

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!

THE PARKING SPACE

Moishe is driving in Jerusalem . He's late for a meeting, he's looking for a parking place, and can't find one. In desperation, he turns towards heaven and says: "Lord, if you find me a parking place, I promise that I'll eat only kosher, respect Shabbos, and all the holidays."

Miraculously, a place opens up just in front of him. He turns his face up to heaven and says, "Never mind, I just found one!"

Old World Theatre is Rocking CKE

George Bernard Shaw's delightful comedy, "Arms and the Man" opened here on Saturday, March 9 and played again three more times. It was a sell-out and was greatly enjoyed by many of our members and guests.

A View from the Bridge, the February production of Old World Theatre was hugely successful on all points. Three of the performances were sold out and the fourth nearly sold out. The reception from the audience was extraordinarily positive! We have an artistic treasure in our midst so please come enjoy these talented actors!

Make your reservations early to assure yourself of seeing our own unique theatre company in another exceptional production! Call the office 847-673-3370! While you are doing that, make reservations for Old World Theatre's final production of the season, "The Boys Next Door" by Tom Griffin-opening in mid May.

Ponderings

To write with a broken pencil is pointless.

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.

A will is a dead giveaway.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft and I'll show you A-flat miner

Submitted by **Len Colen**

SS
**We Celebrate...
We Pray...
We Remember...**

NEW MEMBERS

Jennifer Blitz and William Dunn with **Rachel** and **Allison Ethel Sostrin**

MAZEL TOV TO

Ethel Sostrin on the birth of her granddaughter **Sophia Rae**

BOOK DONATIONS

Shabbat Prayer Book donated by **Bill Raffeld** in memory of **Fred Levin**

Shabbat Prayer Book donated by **Sarine** and **Bob Rohde** in memory of

Lorri and David Rosen

Etz Hayim donated by the **Jaffe Family** in memory of **David Rosen**

Etz Hayim donated by the **Jaffe Family** in memory of **Lorri Rosen**

CONGREGATION WANTS TO WISH A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Betty Gordon

Bill Raffeld

GENERAL & SIMCHA DONATION

Melanie and Eric Brodsky

Sheila Wexler

When Does Life Begin?

At a recent round-table discussion, a group of religious leaders were debating at what point life begins.

*The Priest spoke first and said "At conception, of course!"
The Imam said "No, no, it's certainly begins at birth".*

They had to prod the Rabbi for his answer, and he finally leaned forward into his mike and spoke softly "All of my friends here are wrong. Life begins when the child enrolls in medical school!"

Celebrate Your Simcha At Kol Emeth

Celebrating a special birthday or anniversary? Did your grandchild graduate from kindergarden or medical school? Nothing beats joining your Kol Emeth family at a service where our **Rabbi Barry Schechter** gives you his blessing and congratulations.

If you wish to partially sponsor a Kiddush or Oneg Shabbat you'll be performing a mitzvah, too.

Tree Of Life

Perfect for a Special Birthday or a Special Anniversary, the Kol Emeth Tree of Life offers a unique and lasting record of your simcha. Any type of happy occasion is beautifully engraved for all to see.

Consider purchasing a Leaf, an Acorn or even a Rock for our beautiful Tree Of Life. For only \$118.00 you can purchase a Leaf, for \$236.00 an Acorn or for a Rock it is only \$354.00. Please contact **Judy Kessler** in the Synagogue Office for more information or to order.

This is such a terrific way to honor someone on a special occasion.

**CKE's Culminating Event is coming soon.
Have you solicited ads for the Ad Book?**

The plans are well underway for this year's Culminating Event on June 30th. The same committee that brought you a Western Hoedown, a Hawaiian Luau and a '40s radio revue is planning a top secret event that just might surpass all the others. Mark your calendars and make plans to be there.

You can attend for *next to nothing* by getting those ads in (which will cover most or all of the cost for you to attend). If you have not yet solicited for those ads, please hurry. You don't want to miss this unique event at Kol Emeth!

Read through the orange instruction sheet (in your adbook mailing), and if you are still are not sure what to do, contact Sandy (her number is on the bottom of the orange sheet).

Get those ads in as soon as possible!

The Jewish Dog

A man walks into shul with a dog.

The shammass comes up to him and says, "Pardon me, this is a House of Worship. You can't bring your dog in here."

"What do you mean," says the man, "this is a Jewish dog. Look."

The shammass looks carefully and sees that in the same way that a St. Bernard carries a brandy barrel round its neck, this dog has a tallis bag round its neck.

"Rover," says the man, "kipa!"

"Woof!" says the dog, then he stands on his hind legs, opens the tallis bag, takes out a kipa, and puts it on his head.

"Rover," says the man, "tallis!"

"Woof!" says the dog, then he stands on his hind legs, opens the tallis bag, takes out a tallis, and puts it around his neck.

"Rover," says the man, "daven!"

"Woof!" says the dog, who then stands on his hind legs, opens the tallis bag, takes out a siddur, and starts to daven.

"That's fantastic," says the shammass, "absolutely amazing, incredible! You should take him to Hollywood, get him on television, get him in the movies, he could make millions of dollars!"

"You speak to him," says the man. "He wants to be a doctor."

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.

Newly Revised Office Hours

Monday - Friday

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

Our office secretary is **Judy Kessler**.

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 **Judy** 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 **Judy Kessler** and edited by **Roger Fischhoff**.

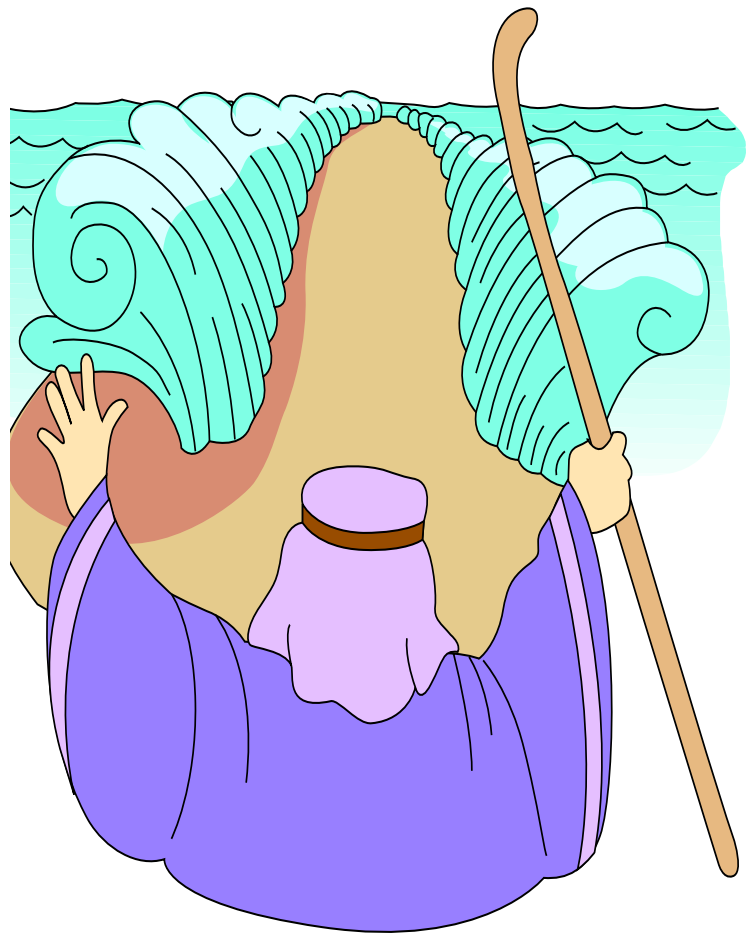
Congregation Kol Emeth

5130 West Touhy Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60077



Address Service Requested

Rabbi	Barry Schechter
President	William Raffeld
Co-President/Religious Matters	Dr. Paul Helman
Vice President/Membership	Leigh Sisk
Treasurer	Michael Okmin
House Committee Chairman	Len Colen
Sisterhood Representative	Helene Colen
Men's Club Representative	Herman Nussbaum



How Long Does A Minyon Take?

For most of you, the Minyon is only around the corner, or a couple of blocks down the street. When I attend the Minyon it's a project; I leave home about 6:45 p.m. return about 8:30 p.m. Home for me is in Arlington Heights, a 25-mile round trip.

When I first became a member of Kol Emeth, I decided to make a time commitment to the Synagogue. At first it was twice a month. Now it's three or four times a month.

I come early and stay late to talk with the men and women who attend the 7:40 p.m. services, but on the long trip home, I feel I've done something for the Synagogue, myself and the others who come to say Kaddish.

After all, we may all need the benefit of a regular Minyon some day. Why not start the year right? Attend the Minyon on a regular basis. After all, for most of you it's just around the corner.

Howard Mirsky

(continued from front page)

any more, but one is not supposed to have Matza either. I remember some strange concoction of potatoes and eggs, washed down by borsht, home-made naturally. My mother's borsht was thicker than any other I have ever tasted, since she added whipped raw eggs to it.

As a child, I had to sleep in the afternoon, so as to be able to stay up for the Seder. Well do I remember the Kneidlech that my mother made. As I am sure everyone knows, there are two schools of matzo balls: hard and soft. My mother's were most definitely the former. I always felt that, had we not eaten them, these matzo balls could have served the Israeli army well in all their battles.

When it came to the Afikoman, our custom was for the children to hide it and my father to have to find it, or failing that, to pay us for it. One of our neighbors, a boy about 8 years old, from a relatively unobservant home, came to us for his first Seder and stole the Afikoman. Asked what he wanted for it, he replied: "A car." "You mean a toy car?" my father asked. "No," he said, "a real car." I don't believe he received a car, but to the best of my knowledge he has been very successful in later life.

It is considered a great mitzvah to discuss the miracle of the exodus from Egypt at the Seder table. But I think we should also talk about our personal memories of our childhood Seder and give these to our children and grandchildren. These memories are our personal treasures and should not be lost.

Julie and I wish you all a Happy and Kosher Pesach.
Rabbi Barry Schechter

Congregation Kol Emeth
5130 W. Touhy Ave.
Skokie, IL 60077
847-673-3370



It's the Nice Thing to Do: a Look at Chesed and Kindness in the Jewish Tradition

Adult Education

Featuring Marianne Novak

Lecturer at the Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning

Sunday, April 21, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Light brunch included

Members \$10.00

Nonmembers \$13.00

Reservations and payment for this event must be in the CKE Office by Thursday, April 18, 2013.

Congregation Kol Emeth, 5130 W. Touhy Ave., Skokie, IL 60077

847-673-3370

Reservations and payment must be in the CKE office
by Thursday, April 18, 2013.

Name: _____ Phone _____

Members _____ @\$10.00 per person = \$ _____

Non-Members _____ @\$13.00 per person = \$ _____

Adult Ed 4-21-13 Total Enclosed: \$ _____



The Passover story begins with women

When does the liberation from Egyptian slavery begin? Most would say with Moses. Yet long before he learned how to speak truth to power, there was a young girl whose daring act paved the way for Moses.

Imagine the conditions depicted in the biblical book of Exodus: Pharaoh had decreed the death of all Hebrew male babies. The entire socioeconomic and political system he constructs aims at the destruction of a people. Yet at every step of the way, women flout his edict, collaborating across divisions of class, religion, and ethnicity in their insubordinate solidarity. First, two midwives refuse to comply with the law of the land and let the boys live. Next, when Pharaoh commands that all male children be thrown into the Nile, a mother cleverly seeks to preserve the life of her baby boy by hiding him in a watertight basket. After all, Pharaoh didn't say anything about a PFD ("Personal Flotation Device") when ordering boys to be cast into the river.

Although we often remember the exodus as beginning with Moses, the biblical author points to Miriam, and her courageous action, as the point of departure for this story of liberation.

Then even Pharaoh's own daughter defies his deadly command when she happens to discover the baby in the basket. She knows he is one of the persecuted. "This is one of the Hebrew children!" she announces. Yet instead of carrying out her father's orders, she takes pity on him. It is at this turning point that a young girl undertakes a fateful intervention. As the baby's sister, she had stationed herself on the banks of the river to see what would happen to the child. When Pharaoh's daughter discovers him, this girl might have expected the worst. But instead of fleeing, she fearlessly approaches the princess with a daring and unsolicited proposition: "Shall I go and get for you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

Notice the double mention of "for you." Did the princess ever contemplate taking the boy as her own? Or does this girl (who shrewdly doesn't identify herself as the baby's sister), open the princess's eyes to a new possibility, and show how it can be realized? We cannot know. But in either case, the sister found a way to connect to this woman's sense of compassion—and turn it into life-sustaining action. Working together, these women defy Pharaoh's decree of death.

As a result, the child is nursed by his own mother, and eventually brought to the palace as the adopted son of the Pharaoh's daughter. The child is none other than Moses, the one who will lead his people to freedom. His sister, the young girl, is named Miriam. But although we often remember the exodus as beginning with Moses, the biblical author points to Miriam, and her courageous action, as the point of departure for this story of liberation.

Consider the details and their significance: No one tells Miriam to take responsibility for the child. The mother disappears after one last act of desperation, placing the baby in the water. It is the sister who miraculously turns this act of desperation into a moment of salvation. But this young girl has more than courage. She also has wisdom. Seeing a spark of sympathy in another human being—in Pharaoh's own daughter no less!—she is able to connect with it and kindle it, to fan it into a life-giving flame.

Miriam's world is one in which social, political, and economic structures are all designed to oppress the body and crush the spirit. It is a dehumanizing world. But the abuse fails to vanquish her faith in humanity. The first miracle of the exodus is the triumph of the spirit—the ability to remain human under such inhuman conditions, to recognize compassion in the face of the other, to muster human resources for the purpose of defending the vulnerable, and to act boldly in resistance to brutal laws. Miriam's refusal to relinquish her humanity or discount that of Pharaoh's daughter is an act of freedom that opens a path to collective liberation and to an exodus from an old order.

Dr. Jacob L. Wright is Professor of Hebrew Bible at Emory University.

Read more: <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2013/03/24/passover-story-begins-with-women/#ixzz2OVibn8y4>

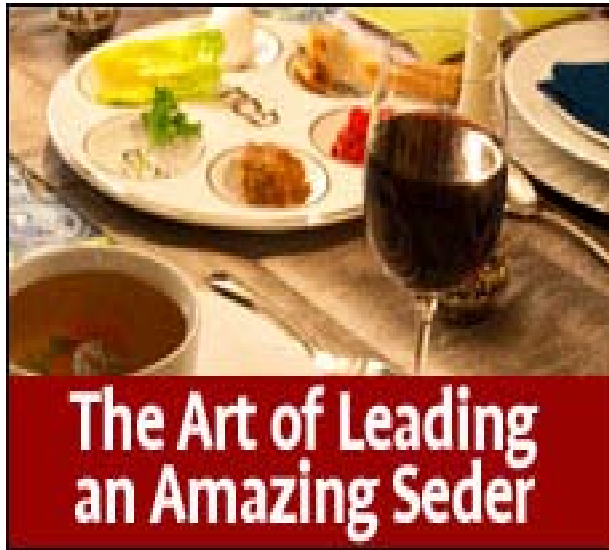
Everything before the story is to prepare for the story.

Everything after the story is to celebrate the story.

The Leader is the guide on this journey. One of the challenges of the Leader is to keep the participants engaged from beginning to end. All the traditional directions (like covering and uncovering the matzah, for instance) are just devices to help participants, especially children, pay attention and ask: *Why?*

Here are a few tips and preps for keeping them interested:

1. Present the Seder as a drama in which all at the table are actors. Create a Cast List to fit your Seder and place a copy on each dinner plate when setting the table. Imagine how they will feel to see their names in print!
2. Participant preparation. If possible, let participants know a few days before the Seder what their role will be. Ask them to come with something to say about that, a short explanation or "*dvar Torah*".
3. Place a small empty bowl beside each dinner plate. Leader has a large bowl of treats (nuts, candy, fruit). Reward all questions with a treat.
4. Use bingo cards. These can be introduced at any time, but most words should be from the Maggid section.
5. Prepare two gifts for every participant – one is a small inexpensive gift: a toy, silly glasses, etc. The second is a more meaningful gift: preferably a book. Gifts are especially important for



young children. You will use these during Maggid.

6. Other props to prepare (for the 10 plagues): plastic toy frogs, a bag of salt (lice), slime (boils), plastic toy animals (pestilence and wild beasts), a ping pong ball and softball (hail), plastic toy grasshoppers

(locusts), sleep masks (darkness).

7. Seating: If you have multiple families, best to seat families together. Children and parents will have a more meaningful Seder if they experience it together. You could create a separate children's table in another room for eating the meal, but during the Haggada before and after the meal children should sit with their parents. Give everyone a pillow as a symbol of luxury and aristocracy.

8. Give everyone a cushion or pillow as a symbol of luxury and aristocracy.

9. Know your audience. Study the Haggada and plan to skip sections as needed. Pencil in names of participants you will ask to read certain sections.

10. Preparing for Passover is a lot of work. Some people have a "tradition" of arriving at the Seder exhausted. Take care of yourself and make sure you enjoy it. When the Leader is happy, it will be easier for everyone else to be happy!

by Rabbi Alexander Seinfeld

Excerpted from the *Art of Amazement Haggada: Leader's Edition*. This Haggada includes tips and tricks throughout the text, including questions and answers on various details of the Seder.

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.)

