



# Kol Kehilat

THE NEWSLETTER OF KEHILAT CHAVERIM

March 1, 2016 (5776)

SEDEERS REMEMBERED

Compiled by Wendy Swift

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Passover is a “cornerstone” of Jewish tradition. Jews the world over celebrate this holiday of freedom, survival and unity using a Haggadah as their guide and following the steps of a Seder to ensure the story of our ancestors’ Exodus from Egypt is remembered and passed on to the next generation. Though Jews share the tradition of Passover, families enjoy distinct celebrations that remind them not only of their connection to other Jews, but also of their ties to their own family’s histories and traditions. This holiday season, members of Kehilat Chaverim shared their unique Passover stories from years past as well as present day celebrations. Their stories might kindle memories of your own, or inspire you to consider traditions you are now creating that will be honored by your family for generations to come.

**Mary Williams:** We lived in Wantagh, New York a town on Long Island’s south shore. I was a child, and we were getting ready to welcome in Elijah when the doorbell rang. I opened the door to find an unknown man and his son. They were lost and looking for directions; we insisted they come in. We tried to explain that it was Passover, and we wanted the man to drink wine from Elijah’s cup. It was obvious that they didn’t understand what we were jabbering on about, and they certainly didn’t want to drink or to stay. This was amazing to me, and of course, became family lore.

**Joan Walden:** My favorite Seder memories occurred at my grandma’s table in Freeport, NY. My father’s side of the family would all come together—my three boy cousins, my two aunts, one uncle, my parents and grandparents. Cramming eleven chairs around the mahogany table with two extra leaves completely filled the living room. I recall my grandma’s cranberry glass water goblets and large green glass pitcher, which I inherited. She had few valuables, but I am still warmed by the

*(Continued on page 2)*

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memories and one look at the glasses takes me back to that special time. At the Seder I happily recited the Four Questions (I was the eldest grandchild), and then we consumed a delicious, many-course meal of homemade gefilte fish, chicken soup, matzo balls, brisket, *tsimmes*, and my grandma's special honey cake. It would take my grandmother the entire week to prepare all the food in her too small kitchen, and within a couple of hours it was all gone. After the table was cleared and the dishes washed, we would all play poker!

**Marcy Munoz:** Each year as I prepare for our Seder, I carefully polish my collection of Kiddish cups--my father's, my brother's, my children's, Lori-Beth and Michael. As I do so, I engage in reminiscing about each of these special people, living and dead. But I always spend extra time polishing and remembering another very special Kiddish cup, which is the one designated as Elijah's cup.

My grandparents arrived in America from different countries. My grandfather, Harry Zevin--born in Ladi in the area that was sometimes Poland, sometimes Russia--moved to Palestine with his whole family. After several years, he decided to head to America. He arrived in New York in the 1890s with his twin brother, Louis, and another brother, Abraham. My grandmother, Fanny Ikwitz, was born in Vilna Gaberna, Lithuania. She arrived in New York at the turn of the last century, and Harry and Fanny were married in New Britain on March 17, 1904. Grandpa was involved in creating a synagogue, cemetery and many Jewish charities. When Holocaust refugees needed sponsors, he immediately volunteered.

Eric and Salka Weiner arrived from Austria and soon became members of the Zevin family, taking up residence in the small upstairs apartment in my grandparents' home. My grandparents and their five children lived

downstairs, and Eric, Salka and, for many years, their dog, Princess lived upstairs. After my grandparents died and the house was sold, the Weiners moved into an apartment and continued to attend holiday dinners and special occasions at my mother's house.

One Passover, after everyone else had gone home, Eric handed my mother a precious, beautiful, silver Kiddish cup. He explained that it had been in his family for many years, and it was the one thing they had been able to "smuggle" into America. Since they had never had children, he wanted to make sure that the cup would be safe, and that future generations would learn about the Holocaust. He wanted his story to be remembered and shared, and he also wanted to honor my grandparents' generosity. He handed the cup to my mother and asked her to give it to me when I started my own family.

Each year it is my duty and honor to add the cup to the others on our Seder table and to share the story. One day the cup will go to one of my children, and later, hopefully, to one of my grandchildren. It is my hope that this beautiful cup and its history will continue to be shared and remembered for generations to come.

**Faith Fuerst:** It was the first time I was to chant the Four Questions at our Passover Seder. For weeks I had been practicing; making everyone nuts I'm sure. As with most Conservative Jewish families, the youngest child would ask the questions. In my family, being the fourth child of five, I had been waiting, for years, to have this special honor. We always had twenty or more people at our Pesach Seders including friends with whom we would go to Break Fast with after Yom Kippur. They had twin daughters a couple of years older than me. We also had another family with twin sons about 8 years older than me, and a

couple of students too far from home while attending the University of Miami where my dad was a professor, along with other guests.

What made this night different from all other nights? I skipped playing with my brothers in our daily football game so that I could set the Seder table. I made sure each Haggadah, Seder booklet, had the page with the Four Questions; I was just a little obsessed. I very carefully wrote out the names on the seating place cards and then went in my room to practice, again. To this day, I cannot remember belting out the Four Questions, but I do carry the fulfillment and the wonder of everybody's compliments. It was the most amazing experience of my seven year old self!

**Maggie Cohen:** My mother was a fabulous cook. At one Passover Seder, she put bread-crumbs on the asparagus to everyone's horror. That's the kind of thing you never, ever forget!

**Helene Berlin:** Over the past 30 years Richie (Sperber) and I have hosted dozens of Seders - coordinated bring-a-dish gatherings of 20 or more family and friends, requiring moving furniture out and stringing tables down the length of our living room. As good Kehilat do-it-yourselfers, we created our own cut and paste Haggadahs from various sources, changing the readings from year to year to keep it fresh and relevant, often with an overarching theme.

One year, we asked each guest to bring an item that represented something in their lives that kept them enslaved and from which they would be freed as we left Egypt and slavery. I remember Amy Sprengelmeyer brought a red pen, explaining that she was leaving behind her inner critic. At our human rights Seder, we held up a fourth matzah in recognition of oppression in today's world, and the Seder plate included items such as Fair Trade chocolate to remind us of child slave labor, and olives as a prayer for

peace in the Middle East. Of the many memorable Seder moments over the years, one recent comment stands out in our minds. Richie was describing how much easier the process of creating the Haggadah had become since the advent of word processing and the availability of material on the Internet. However, he admitted that he got some unexpected results in response to a Google search for images of "bondage."

Our all-time favorite Haggadah is "Passover the Musical", for which we wrote several song parodies based on Broadway classics from Oklahoma, My Fair Lady, and Fiddler on the Roof. It was a smash hit! Here is one example. For more, please contact Helene.

#### AFIKOMAN

(To the tune of "Oklahoma")

Aaaaa-fikoman

It's the matzo half we set aside  
We can't end the meal till we reveal  
Where that wrapped-up cracker went to  
hide

Aaaaa-fikoman

It reminds us of the Paschal lamb  
That we sacrificed that long dark night  
When from Egypt we prepared to scam

We know as dessert it's not great  
Thank God Sheila showed up with cheese-  
cake!

And we won't say, "Yeah,  
Elijah's on his way" until we finish  
Searching for the Afikoman,  
Afikoman, A-F-I-K-O-M-A-N,  
Afikoman!

(adapted by Helene Berlin)



## The March 4<sup>th</sup> Service is Moving!



But we're not going far. Join us in the Boardroom at the Mandell Jewish Community Center, 335 Bloomfield Avenue West Hartford, at 7:00 for conversation and refreshments. Take a left at the gallery, go up the incline, and head right toward the café area. If this doesn't work for you, the desk can point you in the right direction. The service followed by an Oneg Shabbat will start at 7:30.

A contribution of snacks, fruit, or dessert is welcome but not required.



## Condolences

Our sincere condolences to members Karen and Leo Harrington and their family on the passing of Karen's mother. Lillian Libertoff, 95 years old, passed away, after a brief illness.

Lillian Ivry Libertoff, died in Montpelier, Vermont on February 2, 2016. Born in New York City on August 24, 1920, she attended NYC public schools, completed undergraduate work at NYU and received a Masters in Education from Brooklyn College. Married to Wilford Libertoff but widowed at age 37, she began her professional career as an elementary school teacher but quickly transitioned to various administrative positions with the NYC Board of Education. She retired at age 70.

Lillian lived in NYC for 92 years, 45 in an apartment on 12th Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Greenwich Village. Before she moved to "the city," she lived in Belle Harbor on the Rockaway peninsula. The beach and ocean were a draw for many family members from Brooklyn and beyond, who spent many summer weeks at the beach with her. She was an avid reader, superb Scrabble player, and avid New York Times reader. She had a lifelong interest in local and national politics. She marched on Washington in 1963, joined her children on numerous anti-war and women's rights marches, and showed solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street protesters. She was thrilled to see Barack Obama elected but was torn between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. She put both their bumper stickers on her walker.

Although raised in an Orthodox home, she avoided all religious affiliation after her children completed their Hebrew School education. Much to her surprise, she did enjoy attending the Kehilat Chaverim High Holiday services and thought that our bar mitzvahs were extremely meaningful.

Lillian is survived by her daughter, Karen Harrington and her husband Leo of West Hartford CT; her son, Kenneth and his partner, Sarah Hofmann of East Montpelier, VT; three grandsons, Jamie Libertoff of Albuquerque New Mexico, David Harrington and his wife Sarah of Brooklyn, New York, and Michael Harrington and his wife Katie Harrington of New Orleans, Louisiana. She is also survived by great grandchildren, Jack Wilford and Jane Billie Harrington of New Orleans, and step great grandchildren Fiorello Gamio and Rodrigo Sarmiento of Albuquerque, NM. Before she lost consciousness, she was able to respond to the news that a third great grandchild will be born in August to David and Sarah.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to NPR and Kehilat Chaverim (c/o N. Malley,

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Harrington family.

## Community Action

### ANNUAL KEHILAT CHAVERIM COMMUNITY COOK-IN

On the weekend of January 9-10, twenty-two KC volunteers gathered at three homes to prepare meals for 120 people. At Elaine Groundwater's, Maggie Cohen's and Linda Busch's (where the youth group gathered), volunteers cooked chili, prepared salad, and made cookies for the Hands on Hartford soup kitchen. Linda delivered all the food on Monday where our donation was gratefully received.



## Naches

**Congratulations to member Harriet Winograd** whose painting "Beyond the Pale 2" was on display at the New Britain Museum of American Art at the The Nor'Easter: 46th Annual Juried Members Exhibition.

This exhibition is the NBMAA's opportunity to expose contemporary visual arts to a wide audience. This prominent showcase in the Northeast region highlights the exceptional work of emerging artists in all media.

## Social Activities



The Social Committee organized a very successful theatre outing at Playhouse on Park in West Hartford, to see "The Chosen" - from the award-winning novel by Chaim Potok. The event was on opening night, Friday, January 29, and started at 7 pm in the theatre lobby for a complimentary wine & cheese reception, before the 8pm show. There were 27 members and guests in attendance.

## Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events:

### Purim-

We're planning a service project to assemble and deliver Shalach Manos boxes to three JACL group homes for disabled Jewish adults. Members are invited to help assemble boxes of hamentashen and other treats from 11-1 on Sunday, March 20th at Harriet Winograd's home. We'll deliver them the same afternoon.

### Passover-

We'll be organizing Seder matching coordinated by Andrea Igdalsky, and Ellen Coffey.

~Ellen Coffey



## Spring Shabbat Services

April 1, 2016

May 13, 2016

Unless otherwise announce, we will meet in the Gallery at the Mandell Jewish Community Center at 335 Bloomfield Ave., West Hartford CT

# A TASTE OF PASSOVER



## *Back by Popular Demand!*

We Invite You to Share Your Favorite Passover Recipes

Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 PM

At the home of Jan Broidis

Jan is one of our new KC social committee members!



### **What to Bring:**

- **Your favorite Passover dish – enough for at least 20 “tastes”**
  - **15 copies of the recipe**
  - **Your appetite!**

RSVP & Questions: Jan Broidis by email: [nettie1102@hotmail.com](mailto:nettie1102@hotmail.com)

Sponsored by the Kehilat Chaverim Social Activities Committee



Hungry yet?



**Bar and Bat Mitzvah/Youth Education Committee**

**Sunday School Update**

The Bar and Bat Mitzvah/Youth Education Committee has decided to no longer pursue reviving the KC Sunday School due to lack of enough KC members with Sunday School age children. We decided that we needed parents of these children to be the main supporters of this major undertaking but we just do not have them at this time.

We will act as a resource for any KC family with Sunday School age children to help find an appropriate Jewish education which could lead to a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. We will continue to provide a coach, workshops and logistical assistance for any Bar or Bat Mitzvah family. We will continue to provide activities for all school age children from Kindergarten through High School.

We are also offering workshops and assistance for any adult who might want a Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

Laura Pels

Chairperson

Bar and Bat Mitzvah/Youth Education Committee

**Book Club**

Date	Book	Presenter
3/20/16	World's Fair/E.L.Doctorow	Marilyn Eichler

Meetings will be held at the Mandell Jewish Community Center.

Contact Elizabeth DeGroat at [elizabethstuart@earthlink.net](mailto:elizabethstuart@earthlink.net) for more information.

The Ed-Cult Committee invites you to a fascinating presentation  
by UConn Professor and KC member Lewis Gordon:

## **Rarely Kosher: Jews of Color in North America**

**Date: Sunday, April 17 @ 2:00 p.m.**

**Place: Meeting Room, West Hartford Public Library**

Stories of the Jewish people are told in a way that ignores what we have been for most of our history: people of color. Even the academic work of “experts” in Jewish studies reinforces the near-invisibility of Jewish people of color.

This talk will explore the circumstances that have led to such historical amnesia, and conclude with reflections on why it is important to recognize and celebrate the tapestry of Jewish diversity and the life-affirming possibilities it offers.

**Professor Lewis Gordon** teaches courses in philosophy, Africana studies, and Judaic studies at UCONN and at universities in Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean. He is a member of Kehilat Chaverm. Website: <http://lewisrgordon.com/biography/> twitter: <https://twitter.com/lewgord>



*Professor Lewis Gordon*

The talk is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Park in the Isham Garage and bring your ticket for validation at the library

**We hope you will distribute this to your email list and post to your Facebook page to help us promote this excellent program. Thanks.**

## SOUP KITCHEN



Ethan 2/16/16



Naomi and Linda



Lucas and Jackson



Rob

On Monday, February 29, members of KC, including many youth group members, prepared and served dinner to over 80 people at the Hands on Hartford soup kitchen. Helping out were Rob, Jackson and Lila Bell, Naomi and Chloe Amaya, Linda and Lucas Busch, Amy Gallent, and Clarissa and Ethan Basch. Thanks too for members who donated lasagna, bread, dessert and salad ingredients.

## Bar Bat Mitzvah Committee



***Are you an adult member of Kehilat Chaverim interested  
in becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah?***



Having married into a Jewish family, do you want to better understand how Jews traditionally mark the life cycle?

Did you grow up as a secular Jew who now wishes to know more about Jewish religious ritual?

Are you a Jewish woman who came of age in a synagogue where girls could not read Torah from the bimah?

Or are you just eager to join a group of other adults also seeking an ongoing and open but structured Jewish learning experience?

**Kehilat Chaverim's Youth Education/Bar and Bat Mitzvah Committee will be offering an eight-part monthly study group focused around discussion of each of the chapters of Kerry M. Olitzky and Ronald H. Isaacs's *Rediscovering Judaism: Bar & Bat Mitzvah for Adults*.**

At these monthly meetings, which will be held at participants' homes or at a community center, you will combine learning or familiarizing yourself with reading Biblical Hebrew, singing or saying Shabbat prayers, preparing a d'var Torah, choosing and designing your Mitzvah project, and determining whether to have a solo or group Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremony with social action initiatives and educational programming focused on Jewish history, life, and culture. Some of these activities are already underway through activities organized and led by Kehilat Chaverim's Community Engagement and Education/Culture committees.

***Any and all Kehilat Chaverim members are welcome.*** We will determine the group's monthly meeting time according to the needs of its participants.

**If interested, please contact Laura Pels at [lpels@cox.net](mailto:lpels@cox.net) or [860-667-1628](tel:860-667-1628)**

**In the Community**



 **Jewish Community Relations Council**

OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER HARTFORD

invites you to a

**Community Interfaith Seder**

Led by Rabbi Debra Cantor



**Bring a friend of another faith for a taste of Passover!**

The Interfaith Seder brings people of different faiths together to learn and taste the traditions of Passover with community Rabbis, neighbors and friends.

**Sunday, March 13 | 2-4 pm | B'nai Tikvoh Sholom**

180 Still Road, Bloomfield

Please RSVP by Monday, March 7 to Jo Schubert :  
JSchubert@jewishhartford.org | 860.727.6139



# Kehilat Chaverim Calendar

Updated February 5, 2016



<b>2016</b>		
<b>March 2016</b>		
Fri. Mar 4	7:00 pm	<u>Shabbat Service</u> <u>@ Jewish Community Center</u> —Board Room
Sun. Mar 20	11:00 am- 1:00pm	Assemble boxes of hamentashen and other treats - @ Harriet Winograd's home, 45 Timberwood Rd, WH
<b>April 2016</b>		
Fri. April 1	7:00 pm	<u>Shabbat Service</u> <u>@ Jewish Community Center</u>
Sat. Apr 9	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Taste of Passover - @ Jan Broidis' home, 41 Jennifer's Way, Rocky Hill
Sun. Apr. 17	2:00 pm	Ed-Cult Presentation by Lewis Gordon, professor @ UCONN <u>"Rarely Kosher: Jews of Color in North America"</u> @ WH Public Library
<b>May 2016</b>		
Fri. May 13	7:00 pm	<u>Shabbat Service</u> <u>@ Jewish Community Center</u>
Sun. May 15	10:00— noon	Annual Meeting <u>@ Jewish Community Center</u> in the brand new Board Room
Sat. May 28	10:00 am	Bar Mitzvah of Maceo Hertz-Velazquez @ Charter Oak Cultural Center

For additional dates in 2016, see the KC Website at [www.kehilatshaverim.org](http://www.kehilatshaverim.org).

Please check the website calendar for conflicts before scheduling events.

## ***Kehilat Chaverim Contact List***

### 2015-2016 Steering Committee Members—

#### **Jewish Calendar-Driven Events**

Youth Education, Activities and Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Laura Pels\*

dpels1@cox.net

Sabbath

Sandy Voice\*

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Susan Doran

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Marcie Schwartz

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#### **Life-Long Learning**

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Sue Garten\*

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#### **Community Support**

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Clarissa Basch\*

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Linda Busch

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Festivals/Social Activities

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Ellen Coffey\*

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Membership Support/Life Cycle

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Andrea Levy\*

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Community Engagement

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#### **Administration**

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Nancy Malley\*

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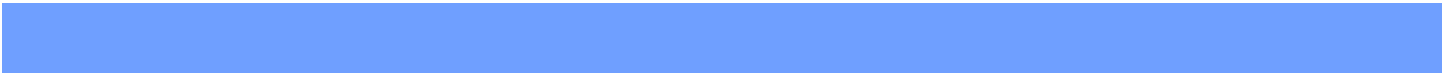
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\* Steering Committee Member

Thank you to Eric Hammerling and Joan Walden for proofreading this newsletter.



Kehilat Chaverim

% Linda Carlson

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Manchester CT 06040

**Featured this Month:**

- Passover Memories
- Purim Activity
- Passover Tasting