

April 2008

Nisan 5768

# Temple Beth Electronic News

## **April 26, 2008: The Rabbi Returns!!!!**

***We've been eagerly awaiting the return of Rabbi Stephanie, who will conduct a Shabbat Morning Reflective Service Saturday, April 26th, 10:00 am @ the Temple.***

***The Rabbi says "This Shabbat, we're changing it up a bit with a Shabbat MORNING service. With a laidback format geared toward reflecting and decompressing, we hope to create a peaceful retreat on what might ordinarily be the busiest day of the week."***

***Wishing Kate a speedy recovery.  
We miss you!***

## **From the Rabbi**

Exodus: There is no story more essential to the particular religious tradition that is Judaism, yet at the same time, it is humanity's most universal story – the journey from slavery to freedom, from oppression to liberation, from darkness to light. For those who have made the journey, it is an inspiring recollection. For those who yet find themselves in bondage, it is a passionate yearning. . In this way, wherever we find ourselves, the *Haggadah* tells our story.

We should not be surprised, therefore, to learn that a vast array of *Haggadot* have been created to guide us through the tale. There are *Haggadot* for environmental seders and vegetarian seders. There are *Haggadot* for seders celebrated jointly with African-American communities, Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender communities, and Muslim communities. There are *Haggadot* for women's seders (as we have done here in Dubuque) and, yes, even men's seders.

On Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, we will tell the story with a *Haggadah* crafted for

what we are terming a Social Justice seder. As the URJ notes in a publication entitled *Pesach: A Season for Justice*, "Passover is rich in social justice themes. It is impossible to study the story of our redemption and not feel compelled to eradicate injustice in the world today." With readings, songs, liturgy, and symbolic foods, we will explore the plight of the hungry and homeless, modern-day refugees and those who continue to be oppressed as slaves with the goal that the traditional words of *Ha Lachma Anya* will prove to be prophetic: "This year we are slaves. Next year, *may we all be free!*"

With all best wishes for a joyous Pesach celebration in the days until we are together –

L'shalom,

Rabbi Stephanie Alexander

## **Our First Social Justice Seder**

Immediately following the April 26 service, The Rabbi will lead a Social Justice Seder for all! Rebecca Gottlieb will be coordinating the dairy which will be a "salad luncheon" including fish. (Please omit foods such as grains and legumes which are not kosher for Passover but don't worry about official rabbinic approval. Rebecca sent an email requesting volunteers for specific items (e.g. charoset) which are required for the ritual aspect of the Seder and asking for an RSVP so she can get a head count. Email her at: [gottlieb@uwplatt.edu](mailto:gottlieb@uwplatt.edu)



## On the Horizon

May 2-3 (&4) in St. Louis, MO, Midwest Council Kallah, "Claiming Kedushah: Hands-on Holiness"  
For more information and details regarding registration, see <http://urj.org/mwc/>

Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 7PM Shabbat Service; Rabbi Dinner, Dyrke; Oneg, Silverberg  
May 17<sup>th</sup> 7PM Adult Study, Garfields

Save The Date, Temple Sisters!!! The Temple Beth El Sisterhood is invited to "An 18-hour Chai" at Temple B'nai Jeshurun in Des Moines on May 30-31. Members from our Sisterhood will have a chance to attend services, hear a program by Sandi Firsell (from WRJ's Midwest Board), and socialize with women from 5 other congregations in Iowa and Nebraska. Rebecca will have brochures and information about arranging home-stays in Des Moines

Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup> Shabbat Service; Rabbi Dinner, Alexander; Oneg, Alexander  
Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup> End-of-Year Social, hosted by The Alexanders

## Tikkun Olam/Tzedekah and Other Good Works

Ellie spoke to the Catholic Daughters in Shullsburg about Judaism and gave her appreciative audience an opportunity to sample matzos. \* Thanks to the Rudins, Garfields, Dyrkes and Reinstains for cooking and providing food for the Mission Dinner recently co-sponsored by our Temple and the UU Fellowship. Special thanks to Wayne for helping to set up and to Phyllis for helping to serve. 90 people were fed, plus a few staff and volunteers. The meal was greatly appreciated and received many compliments. \* Thanks to Faye and Karin for hosting the Purim Dinner and to Karin for chanting the opening chapter of Megillat Esther. \* Over the years the religious school students have collected \$58.18 in the Temple Tzedekah Boxes which is being donated toward relief efforts in Darfur.

## Updates

### The Alexander Levi Exhibit and Dubuque Jewish Family Reunion



"From Distant Places to Dubuque's Shores: 175 Years of Jewish Presence in the Tri-State Region"

is currently in development and production, finalizing negotiations for it to run at The New Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium from December, 2008. To learn more about the exhibit visit [www.levicelebration.com](http://www.levicelebration.com)

To kick off the exhibit and celebrate our worship community's 175th; Temple Beth El will host **The Dubuque Jewish Family Reunion** – a weekend of fun and festivities for current and past Jewish Dubuquers, student rabbis, regional clergy and anyone else with a Jewish Dubuque connection.

Among the weekend events are: a Shabbat morning service led by Rabbi Stephanie, assisted by past clergy; a luncheon and genealogy lecture; a Saturday evening visit to the Levi exhibit along with an exciting congregational dinner; and a Sunday walk through Lynwood's Jewish section and wrap-up picnic. Invites and Save the Dates are going out May 1. Check the Beth El website soon ([www.templebe.org](http://www.templebe.org)) for a downloadable flyer that you can send to far-flung family and friends.

### Help Grow the Shoah Victims' Names Database

Yad Vashem wants volunteers who are willing to contact local institutions and individuals to grow the Shoah Victims Database whose principal documents are Pages of Testimony. With the aid of promotional materials Yad Vashem has developed, volunteers will reach out to survivors and their families and assist them in registering the names of Jews who they know were murdered in the Shoah. This will be done through synagogues, Holocaust centers, Jewish Community Centers, Jewish student organizations, senior centers and social service agencies. To volunteer send your name, address, phone number and e-mail address to [names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il](mailto:names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il) with the subject heading "Names Volunteer"

To submit a Page of Testimony, there is a link on the left portion of the screen from the Basic Search page at [http://www.yadvashem.org/lwp/workplace/IY\\_HON\\_Welcome](http://www.yadvashem.org/lwp/workplace/IY_HON_Welcome). Click the words "Submit Additional Names."

Chag Pesach Sameach!

