



YOUNG ISRAEL OF WEST HARTFORD
2240 ALBANY AVENUE
WEST HARTFORD, CT 06117
860-233-3084
Web Site: www.youngisraelwh.org

חג כשר ושמח!

Shabbat HaGadol Parshat Achrei Mot
April 16, 2011 ✨ **5 Nisan 5771**

Pesach – The Numbers Game ~ Rabbi Jay Kelman – www.torahinmotion.org

Numbers have great symbolic value to people. Just look at the athletes have to their jersey numbers. For Jews numbers are an important part of our tradition. One example is towards the end of the *seder* where we list the numerical symbols of one to thirteen. The number one, of course, is the symbol of the One G-d who controls the world, a message the Egyptians were slow to realize. Thirteen refers to the attributes of G-d which we must emulate as we strive to become better people. In between we have numbers symbolizing our founding fathers and mothers and our key books and mitzvot. Yet one symbol seems out of place. "Who knows eleven? I know eleven. Eleven are the stars in Joseph's dream." Joseph's dream! Is that what we want mentioned at the *seder*? His dreams were the reason we ended up in Egypt in the first place. The young immature lad of 17 dreaming that his brothers will bow down to him elicited anger and jealousy from his older siblings not to mention rebuke from his father. These 11 stars caused us untold pain and suffering and mention of them appears out of place at the end of our most joyous meal.

Pesach is the time of communal unity, when the wise and the wicked can sit together at the same table, when disparate families come together as we realize despite all of our differences we are still one family. While the focus of *Pesach* is togetherness we must be constantly reminded to avoid the pitfalls of friction. In fact the *seder* reminds us of the dangers of internal strife in subtle but important ways. Our calendar is arranged so that *Tisha B'av*, the day of national mourning (caused by internal discord), always falls on the same day of the week as the first day of *Pesach*. It is customary to eat an egg, a food associated with mourning, to symbolize the festival sacrifice which we no longer have. Our *seder* begins with *hah lachma anyah*, this is the bread of affliction where we remind ourselves that we are still in exile. It ends with *chad gadia* symbolizing the persecutions we have endured throughout history where we have literally been eaten alive. Both passages, in contradistinction to the rest of the *hagadah*, are in Aramaic the language associated with the Babylonian exile. And of course both at the beginning and at the end of the *seder* we pray that next year we shall celebrate the *seder* in Jerusalem complete with a pascal lamb. The *seder* is a time for rejoicing but if we don't learn from the mistakes of Yosef and his brothers redemption will remain a dream.

There is also much on the positive side that we can learn from the subtle reminders of Joseph. "And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him for he had bound the children of Israel by oath saying G-d will surely remember you then carry up my bones with you" (Exodus 13:19). The Jews are about to depart Egypt and Moshe is worrying about the bones his of long deceased ancestor! Yet Moshe understood that the future of the Jewish people was dependent on maintaining a link with the past. It may have been the mistakes of Yosef that led to our sojourn in Egypt but it was his approach to life in exile that is to serve as the model for the Jewish people. His continued faith in G-d during trying times, his moral strength in rejecting the advances of his boss's wife, his constant use of the name of G-d and his fidelity to the traditions of his parents and grandparents despite the allure of the Egyptian way of life must serve as an inspiration to us. Perhaps most importantly for the fledging Jewish nation he had the ability to foresee crisis and to strategize effectively to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

Though the average slave had no idea who Joseph was, Moshe made sure that they would soon find out. His casket was to serve as a reminder of the importance of unity amongst the people and as a source of inspiration in coping with the inevitable challenges that lie ahead. In our haste to move forward we must be sure to maintain the link with our past. Chag Sameach!

Editor: Judie Patel
E-mail: bulletin@youngisraelwh.org
Editors Emeritus: Sam Leichtberg & Moish Trencher

Rabbi Brahm Weinberg 860-233-3084 or
rabbi@youngisraelwh.org
Judith Hessing, Coordinator 860-233-6042 or
judith.hessing@gmail.com

Schedule of Services

<p><u>Friday, April 15th</u> Shacharit Mincha/Maariv Candle Lighting</p>	<p>6:45 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:12 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Thursday, April 21st - Chol HaMoed Pesach</u> Shacharit... Thursday Mincha/Maariv</p>	<p>6:30 a.m. 7:20 p.m.</p>
<p><u>Shabbat, April 16th - Shabbat HaGadol</u> Rabbi Sheinkopf's Mishna Brurah Class Shacharit Sof Zman Kriat Shma Shabbat Morning Youth Groups Rabbi Weinberg's Shabbat HaGadol Drasha Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishit & Maariv Shabbat Ends</p>	<p>8:00 a.m. 8:45 a.m. 9:31 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 5:45 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 8:14 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Friday, April 22nd - Chol HaMoed Pesach</u> Shacharit Mincha/Maariv Candle Lighting</p>	<p>6:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:20 p.m.</p>
<p><u>Sunday, April 17th</u> Earliest Tallit & Tefillin Shacharit... Sunday (No Gemara Class until after Pesach) Mincha/Maariv Bedikat Chametz After...</p>	<p>5:16 a.m. 8:15 a.m. 7:20 p.m. 8:15 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Shabbat, April 23rd - Chol HaMoed Pesach</u> Shacharit Sof Zman Kriat Shma Shabbat Morning Youth Groups Mincha followed by a shiur Maariv and Shabbat Ends</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. 9:24 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 7:05 p.m. 8:21 p.m.</p>
<p><u>Monday, April 18th - Erev Pesach</u> Alot Hashachar Shacharit & Siyum Bechorot Communal Chametz Burning of Chametz at YIWH Latest Time for Eating Chametz (M''A) Latest Time for Owning/Burning Chametz (M''A) Candle Lighting Mincha/Maariv Start Seder After...</p>	<p>4:56 a.m. 6:30 a.m. 7:45 - 9:00 a.m. 10:11 a.m. 11:31 a.m. 7:16 p.m. 7:20 p.m. 8:16 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Sunday, April 24th - Erev Chag</u> Earliest Tallit & Tefillin Shacharit Candle Lighting Mincha/Maariv</p>	<p>5:04 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 7:22 p.m. 7:25 p.m.</p>
<p><u>Tuesday April 19th - 1st Day of Pesach</u> Shacharit Mincha/Maariv Candle Lighting and 2nd Seder prep After...</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. 7:20 p.m. 8:17 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Monday, April 25th - 7th Day of Pesach</u> Shacharit Mincha/Maariv Candle Lighting After....</p>	<p>9:00 p.m. 7:25 p.m. 8:23 p.m.</p>
<p><u>Wednesday, April 20th - 2nd Day of Pesach</u> Shacharit Mincha/Maariv Chag Ends</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. 7:20 p.m. 8:18 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Tuesday, April 26th - 8th Day of Pesach</u> Shacharit Mincha/Maariv Chag Ends, Chametz Permitted After.... Chametz Sold Through R. Weinberg May be eaten after....</p>	<p>9:00 p.m. 7:25 p.m. 8:25 p.m. 9:15 p.m.</p>