

# NEWSLETTER

## SARAH SEIDEL SISTERHOOD

April 1984

A Message from the Rabbi

The day before Pesach, there is a special commandment called Bedikat Hametz, the search for Hametz. It is a colorful ceremony during which we place pieces of hametz in small areas of our house, recite a blessing and, with a candle, feather and wooden spoon, gather all the remaining hametz together. It is our way of showing that we are ridding ourselves of the remnants of hametz that still remain in the house.

The Rabbis of the Talmud gave this act an additional symbolic interpretation; they interpreted chametz to mean the Yetzer Harah, the 'evil inclination' which resides in each person. The Yetzer Harah is the force within us that works toward the goal of making us less than we are capable of becoming. Therefore, the search for the material hametz (bread, grain, products) which we are forbidden to eat on Passover, is also a search for the spiritual hametz in our daily lives and see how we can eliminate it from our existence.

A Chasidic Rabbi was once invited to the house of a wealthy man. He was shown the apartment used by the family throughout the year, and then with great pride, the host took him to the separate quarters used only for Passover, in order to avoid any contact with chametz. The wealthy man was disappointed with the Rabbi's reaction. The Rabbi seemed unimpressed with the meticulous measures he had taken to observe the laws of Passover. He asked the Rabbi if he approved of his method of removing hametz. The Rabbi replied, "My friend, hametz must not be locked away; it must be totally removed."

The Rabbi was making the point that it is enough for us to realize that there is hametz in our lives and then quietly close the doors on it, locking it away from sight. The real question is: Do we make an honest effort to eliminate it from our behavior?

Our task is not only to search our houses for hametz but to search our souls for the leaven which diminishes our potential to be the best that we can be. May this Passover bring you continued blessings and all good things. Chag Kasher Visameach, a happy and healthy Passover to all!

"...with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm..."

It is especially appropriate to remember the plight of Soviet Jews at Passover.

As we recall the ten plagues in Egypt, we also remind ourselves and the world of the plagues inflicted by the Soviet Union upon Soviet Jews.

### A New Ten Plagues

- 1.No Hebrew instruction.
- 2.No Jewish culture, No Yiddish
- 3.No training of rabbis, no Yeshivot or seminaries
- 4.Closing of synagogues, Harassment for Jewish identity
- 5.No Torah, No Bibles or Prayerbooks
- 6.No Kashrut, No Shabbat, No Yom Tov
- 7.Anti-Semitism, Discrimination in education and employment
- 8.Isolation from World Jewry and Israel
- 9.Separation of Families
- 10.Imprisonment for a desire to leave.

Sincerely,  
Rabbi Paul Kerbel

The next meeting of the Sarah Seidel Sisterhood will be held on Monday, April 9th commencing at 8:00 PM. As always our board meeting will precede this and begin at 7:15 PM in the sanctuary. MEN WELCOME TO SISTERHOOD MEETING!! CAN THIS BE? ABSOLUTELY!! Our speaker for the evening will be Dr. Norman Itzkovitz, professor at Wilson College, Princeton University. Dr. Itzkovitz will join us at 9:00 PM to speak on his unique point of view regarding the Middle East situation, "The Psychological Prospectus on Near East Problems." Please do come one and all and husbands, friends too. Hostesses for the evening will be Gertrude Groch, Mildred Leary and Rita Nissim.

TODAH!! THANK YOU!!

My sincere thanks for your cooperation and helpful assistance during our recent Rummage Sale. It was a success and I appreciate your effort.  
Bee Busch

We gratefully acknowledge contributions made to our Memorial Fund by the following:

Dr. & Mrs. Jerry Urken  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gale  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Trackman

In Memory of  
Max Kessler  
Rose Kaiser  
William Trackman

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations:

Mr. & Mrs. Sol Kushner - in honor of Ellen Benowitz's recovery  
Two prayerbooks given in memory of Robert Crespi (brother of Lilian Schluder, uncle of Nevin Schluder) donated by friends and coworkers of Lilian Schluder of the Levitt Administration Building of the Willingboro Board of Education.

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW....

Please keep the cake sale in mind. It will be held on May 19, 20-  
so what do you plan to bake?

Services are held every Friday evening at 8:00 PM with many surprise Onegs taking place following services AND some special services in the offing. DO JOIN IN !!

The rabbi will be leading services on Friday, April 13th beginning at 8:00 PM and Saturday morning, April 14th starting at 9:30 AM. Hostesses for the Oneg Shabbat will be Rhoda Kessler and Trudie Urken.

Candy Singer