Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation AG Beth Israel Bulletin







Rabbi Meyers' Message

March-April 2025 Issue 2

Inside this issue

Rabbi's Message	1,4
President's Perspective	2
Announcements	3
Calendar of Events	5
Schedule of Services	6,7
Pesach Schedule	13-15

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Rabbi Emeritus: Joel Lehrfield, PhD

LJCAGBI Bulletin

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If it feels like the next two months are about to be a non-stop game of jack-in-the-box between you and your fridge, you're not alone. March and April this year bring with them a tidal wave of preparation, cooking, cleaning- repeat. Purim and Pesach arrive in rapid succession—each with shopping lists that seem to multiply overnight, kitchens that turn into battlegrounds, and schedules packed tighter than a suitcase before Yom Tov by the in-laws. More than exhilarating, they're overwhelming. And even more than overwhelming, they're exhausting. This is the annual test of endurance we all know too well.

And in the whirlwind of preparations, it's easy to forget why we're doing all this in the first place. Between scrambling for last-minute Mishloach Manot and scrubbing the house down to its bones, we get so caught up in the details that we lose sight of the bigger picture. But it's precisely during this time of year that we need to stop, take a deep breath, and remember: we've been here before.

Before we get lost in the chaos, we need to remind ourselves why we're doing all of this in the first place. What are these holidays really about?

Purim is about training ourselves to see the hidden miracles in our lives; the realization that even when G-d's presence isn't obvious, He is still guiding our destiny. It's about the power of the Jewish people to survive against all odds, to turn fear into joy, and to never lose hope even in the darkest moments.

Rabbi Meyers' Message—continued on page 4

President's Perspective

Whatever happens, wherever in the world it happens, time keeps on its inexorable march forward. We are one people, wherever in the world we find ourselves, and for those of us living

the add the ad

abroad we feel a kinship with our brothers and sisters in our home land. When they are under threat, we are under threat. We pray on behalf of our family across the sea, we find ways to make donations in ways we hope matter. Some days are good. Some days are bad. And some days we can't figure out until the next day when we look back and realize - that was the miracle we prayed for!

As of this writing, we are still missing hostages - living and dead - in the hands of the same opponents we met immediately after crossing the Red Sea and escaping the might of the pursuing Egyptian army. Amalek attacked from behind, striking the weak who could not walk well and keep up.

Turning the biblical clock forward, another iteration of Amalek attempted to wipe out our community in exile in the Persian capital of Shushan. And in just over a week we will celebrate our yearly commemoration of that victory.

And one month after that we will celebrate the season of our redemption from slavery in Egypt. We will prepare our homes, offices, vehicles - will we remember to prepare ourselves? Of course we will! We have a Rabbi eager to help us learn to enhance our Holidays.

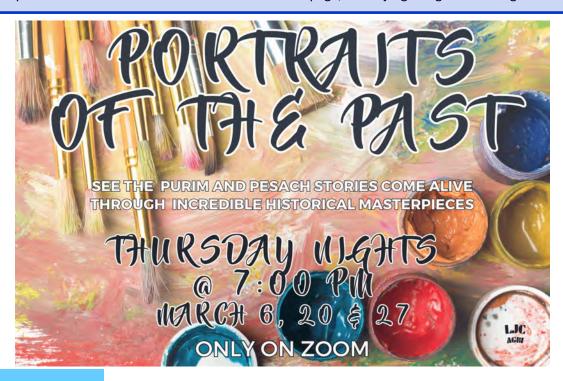
Come join us at Shul, together as a community. Come to learn, come to pray, come to join together. And together we can recall the miracles we have witnessed in our own lives.

Mishenichnas Adar - marbim b'simcha! Followed by Nisan, the month of Spring.

Dan Gutstein President

Get your Lox Box ... Sell a Lox Box (or more) Sunday, March 23.

Order by March 17. Call the office or check the shul web page, www.ljcagbi.org for ordering information.





Please note that this bulletin is online at www.ljcagbi.org

To print calendars, flyers or order forms, go to the bulletin page needed, and print the page(s) you would like. Perfect for refrigerator door decor.

Announcements

Mazal Tov

To Tracy & Uri Dissen on the birth of their son,
Dov

To Leah & Alex Goldstein on the marriage of their granddaughter Rena Goldstein to Meir Cheplowitz

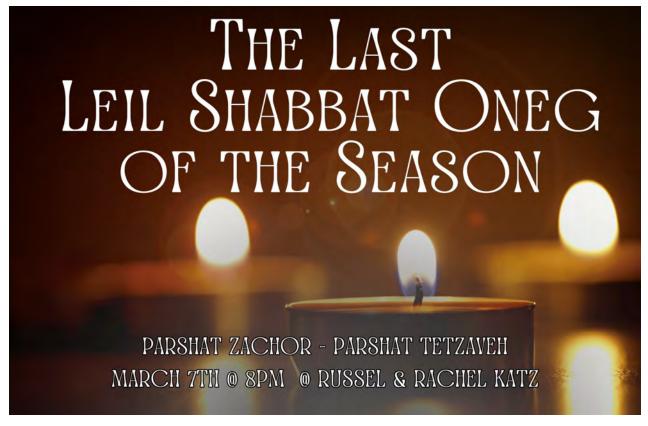
To Annie & Michael Kirshner on the marriage of their granddaughter

Refuah Shlema

Helaine Ellenby Berta Kalman Mitchell Sandler

Please get your articles in for the shul bulletin

If you have a program, announcement or event, please get your information to the Shul *Bulletin* so everyone will know about it! Send your electronic submissions to the editor at: bulletin@ljcagbi.org or submit a hard copy to the Shul office before the deadline, **May-June 2025 issue, Monday, April 21, 2025.** All material is subject to approval by the editor and may be modified for space or content. Inserts must also be approved by the editor before inclusion in the *Bulletin*. Please email bulletin@ljcagbi.org for further details.



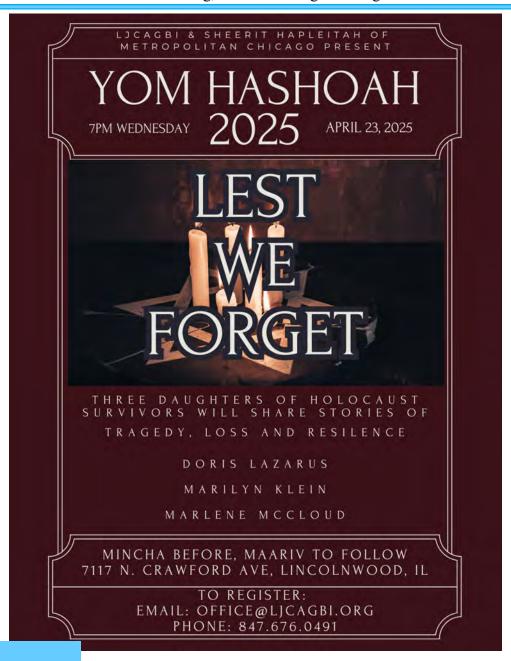
Rabbi Meyers' Message—continued from page 1

Pesach is our eternal declaration of freedom, not just from Egypt but from all those who seek to oppress us. It's a reminder that redemption wasn't just a one time historical event—it's an ongoing process. Each year, we sit at the Seder and relive the Exodus, not because we've forgotten the story, but because it is our story, we are still living it.

We've celebrated Purim in exile (it literally took place while we were in exile) and Pesach under oppression. We've sat at the Seder table in times of fear and uncertainty, whispering "L'shana haba'ah b'Yerushalayim" even when redemption seemed impossibly far away. No matter how difficult the circumstances, we never stopped telling our story.

Mark Twain famously observed, "All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains." The world has thrown everything it could at us, and yet we endure. We celebrate. We continue.

So as the chaos swirls around us, let's hold onto perspective. Yes, it's exhausting. Yes, there will be moments when you wonder how you'll get everything done. But at the end of the day, the very fact that we are here—still standing, still celebrating—is the greatest miracle of all.



March-April 2025 Calendar of Events

Saturday, March 1 Rosh Chodesh Adar-Day 2

Sunday, March 9 Daylight Savings Time Begins

Thursday, March 13 Fast of Esther

Friday, March 14 Purim

Saturday, March 15 Shushan Purim

Sunday, March 23 LICAGBI Lox Box

Sunday, March 30 Rosh Chodesh Nisan

Saturday, April 12 Erev Pesach

Sunday, April 13-20 Pesach-Days 1 thru 8

Wednesday, April 23 Yom HaShoah

Monday, April 28 Rosh Chodesh Iyar-Day 1

Tuesday, April 29 Rosh Chodesh Iyar-Day 2

Wednesday, April 30 Yom HaZikaron







From the Financial Department

Congress re-authorized the provision that allows donors 70 ½ and older to make gifts from their IRA accounts to one or more charities, without first incurring income tax on the withdrawal. This means that you can direct that amount to LJCAGBI with no income tax liability.

These donations are called Qualified Charitable Donations (QCDs).

There are some details and restrictions:

- You must be 70 ½ or older when you make your gift;
- The gift must be made from an IRA
- no other retirement plans qualify, such as 401k, 403b or SEP accounts;
- Your gift must come to us outright it cannot be used to establish a life-income arrangement or support a donor-advised fund or certain types of supporting organizations;
- Although the distribution will be free from income tax, it will not generate an income tax charitable deduction;
- •In order to qualify for this special tax treatment, your gift must be distributed directly to LJCAGBI by your plan administrator- not from your IRA to you and then to LJCAGBI.

You can make this type of gift *until December 31* and still elect for it to count as both a gift and as your minimum required distribution for this year.

IRA administrators don't always include the donor's name on distribution checks. If you're planning to make a distribution to us from your IRA, please let us know in advance so that we'll be able to identify your gift.

For 2025, the total QCD limit for all donations made in the year has increased to \$108,000 per taxpayer. You can also use up to \$54,000 of a QCD to make a one-time donation to a Charitable Gift Annuity CGA).

Donations may be made to any number of charitable 501c(3) organizations and there is no minimum donation, only the yearly limit.

QCDs are valid ONLY for taxpayers 70 1/2 or older, please advise others who meet the rules of this opportunity.

Please call the LJCAGBI office at 847-676-0491 to advise us of your intent and contact your IRA plan administrator today for further information.

Thank you! LJCAGBI.

Schedule for Services &

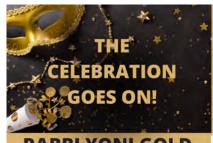
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Shabbat
Key: S – Shacharit M- Maariv M/M- Mincha/Maariv CL – Candle Lighting H- Havdalah						1 TERUMAH ROSH CHODESH S: 9:15am Mincha: 12:20pm H: 6:23pm M: 6:50pm
2 S: 8:30am M/M: 5:30pm	3 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	4 S: 7:00am M: 7:40 pm	5 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	6 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	7 S: 7:00am CL: 5:30 pm M/M: 5:35pm	8 TETZAVEH SHABBAT ZACHOR S: 9:15am Mincha: 12:20pm H: 6:31pm M: 7:00pm
9 S: 8:30am M/M: 6:35 pm	10 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	11 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	12 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	13 FAST OF ESTHER FAST BEGINS: 5:53AM S: 7:00am M/M: 6:30pm FAST ENDS: 7:30pm	14 PURIM S: 8:00am CL: 6:38pm M/M: 6:45pm	15 KI TISA SHUSHAN PURIM S: 9:15am M/M: 6:35pm H: 7:39pm
16 S: 8:30am M/M 6:45pm	17 S: 7:00am M/M: 6:45pm	18 S: 7:00am M/M: 6:45pm	19 S: 7:00am M/M: 6:45pm	20 S: 7:00am M/M: 6:45pm	21 S: 7:00am CL: 6:46pm M/M: 6:50 pm	22 VAYAKHEL S: 9:15am M/M: 6:40pm H: 7:47pm
23 S: 8:30am M/M: 6:55pm	24 S: 7:00am M/M: 6:55pm	25 S: 7:00am M/M: 6:55pm	26 S: 7:00am M/M: 6:55pm	27 S: 7:00am M/M: 6:55pm	28 S: 7:00am CL: 6:54pm M/M: 7:00 pm	29 PEKUDEI S : 9:15am M/M: 6:50pm H: 7:55pm
30 ROSH CHODESH S: 8:30am M/M: 7:00pm	31 S: 7:00am M/M: 7:00pm					



Candlelighting Times

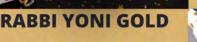
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Shabbat
		1 S: 7:00am M/M: 7:00pm	2 S: 7:00am M/M: 7:00pm	3 S: 7:00am M/M: 7:00pm	4: S: 7:00am CL: 7:01pm M/M: 7:05pm	5 VAYIKRA S: 9:15am M/M: 6:55pm H: 8:02pm
6 S: 8:30am M/M: 7:10pm	7 S: 7:00am M/M: 7:10pm	8 S: 7:00am M/M: 7:10pm	9 S: 7:00am M/M: 7:10pm	10 S: 7:00am M/M: 7:10pm	11 S: 7:00am CL: 7:09pm M/M: 7:15pm	12 TZAV EREV PESACH SHABBAT HAGADOL S: 8:15am M/M: 7:05pm CL: 8:10pm
13 PESACH-DAY 1 S: 9:30am CL: 8:11pm M/M: 7:05pm	14 PESACH-DAY 2 S: 9:30am M/M: 7:05pm H: 8:12pm	15 CHOL HAMOED S: 7:45 am M/M: 7:20pm	16 CHOL HAMOED S: 7:45am M/M: 7:20pm	17 CHOL HAMOED S: 7:45am M/M: 7:20pm	18 CHOL HAMOED S: 7:45am CL: 7:17pm M/M: 7:20pm	19 PESACH-DAY S: 9:15am M/M: 7:10pm CL: 8:18pm
20 PESACH- DAY 8 S: 9:15am M/M: 7:15pm H: 8:19pm	21 S: 7:00am M/M: 7:25pm	22 S: 7:00am M/M: 7:25pm	23 YOM HASHOAH S: 7:00am Mincha: 7pm Maariv: After Yom Hashoah Program	24 S: 7:00am M/M: 7:25pm	25 S: 7:00am CL: 7:24pm M/M: 7:30pm	26 SHEMINI S: 9:15am M/M: 7:20pm H: 8:26pm
27 S: 8:30am M/M: 7:30pm	28 ROSH CHODESH- DAY 1 S: 7:00am M/M: 7:30pm	29 ROSH CHODESH- DAY 2 S: 7:00am M/M: 7:30pm	30 YOM HAZIKARON S: 7:00am M/M: 7:30pm			KEY: S - Shacharit M - Maariv M/M - Mincha/Maariv CL - Candle Lighting H – Havdalah

Minyan times are subject to change. To confirm minyan time please check the shul website under the worship services tab or call/text Paul Kramer at 312.343.2200.



SHUSHAN PURIM SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

Shabbat Morning, March 15th Parshat Ki Tisa















What's happening on Purim at LJCAGBI?

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

MINCHA, MAARIV & MEGILLAH 6:30 PM
BREAK-FAST DINNER AND MAYHAM TO FOLLOW!

Purim Mystery Break-Fast

Everyone's a suspect

JOIN US TO SEARCH FOR CLUES, SOLVE PUZZLES, DEDUCE THE TRUTH AND CATCH A CRIMINAL...WITH THE HELP OF LICAGBI'S UNDER-AGE SLEUTHS.

GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN FOR THE BREAK-FAST ASAP! THE DEADLINE IS MARCH 7. EMAIL OR CALL THE SHUL OFFICE:

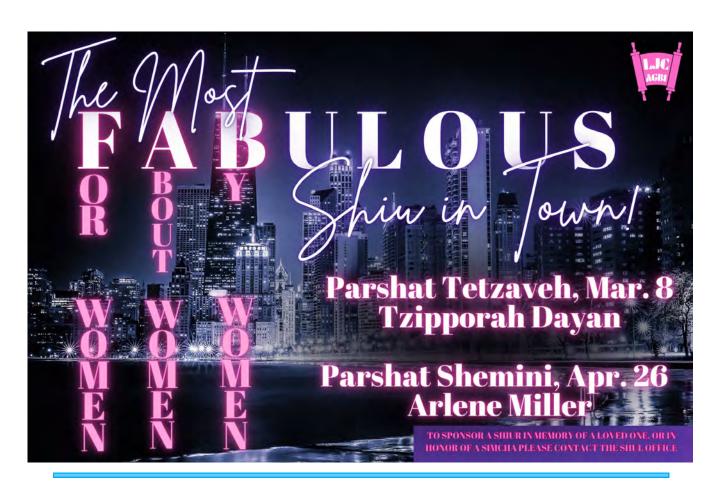
Office@ljcagbi.org or 847-676-0491.

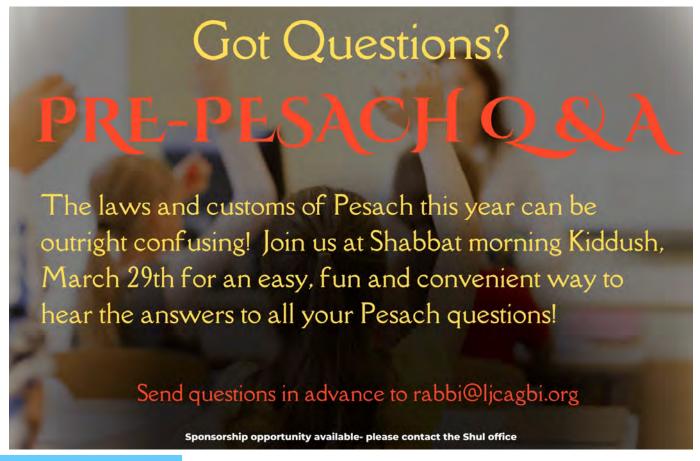
RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED: \$18 FOR DINNER; \$10 UNDER 12; UNDER 5-FREE

Can you figure out who did what?











Take the night off before the first seder!

Join LJCAGBI

PRE-PESACH

SHABBAT DINNER

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

MINCHA/MAARIV 7:15 PM DINNER TO FOLLOW

Reservations required. Call or email the Shul office by April 4, no exceptions.

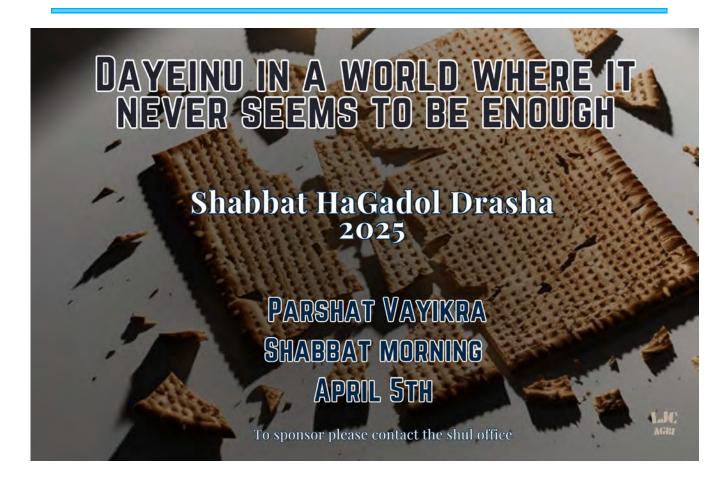
Cost for dinner \$30 pp, \$12 for children 6-12 and \$5 for children 5 and under. Infants are free.

Call the Shul office at 847-676-0491 or email your response to officeljc@att.net











Erev Shabbat

Latest time for Burning Chametz: 11:45am Candle Lighting: 7:09pm Mincha/Maariv: 7:15pm

Shabbat Dinner: After Davening (Reservations required for dinner- see other flyer)



Shabbat Day/Erev Pesach

Shacharit: 8:15am

CHAMETZ KIDDUSH WILL BE SERVED BEFORE MUSAF Latest time to eat Chametz: 10:39am Seudat Shlishit/Dessert: Following Musaf

(Kosher for Passover food)

Latest time to dispose Chametz: 11:45am

(see Pesach Guide 2025)



First Night of Pesach

Mincha/Maariv: 7:05pm

Candle Lighting: After 8:10pm

Earliest Time for Seder: After nightfall

Pesach Schedule 2025

Shabbat HaGadol

Shabbat Hagadol is always the Shabbat that immediately precedes Pesach. However, when Erev Pesach falls out on Shabbat, the custom is that the Shabbat HaGadol Drasha is delivered the previous Shabbat (this year April 5th).

Mechirat Chametz- Selling the Chametz

One is not allowed to eat, own, or derive pleasure from their chametz during Pesach. Therefore, one must arrange to have their chametz sold by the Rabbi prior to Monday, April 7th. Due to the fact that Pesach falls out on Motza'ai Shabbat, the sale of Chametz will take effect on Friday before 11:45am. Any chametz that one plans on having during the rest of the day on Friday and Shabbat morning (before 10:39am) must be set aside (prior to the sale) away from the Chametz that will be sold. Any chametz that was set aside to be eaten WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE SALE. Therefore any chametz that is not consumed before 10:39am on Shabbat morning, must be disposed of before 11:45am. The best way to dispose of such chametz is by crumbling it and flushing it down the toilet.

All sold Chametz will be purchased back one hour after Pesach is over.

See the Mechirat Chametz form for more details regarding this procedure.

Ta'anit Bechoro/The Fast of the Firstborn

Firstborn males, bechorim, are required to fast on Erev Pesach in commemoration of the final plague, Makat Bechorot, when G-d spared the life of every first-born Jew. This year the fast will be observed on Thursday, April 10th. As in all years, the fast can be circumvented by participation in a Siyum, which will be held in the synagogue, following Shacharit at 7am.

Bedikat Chametz/Search for Chametz

Bedikat Chametz, the search for chametz, takes place on Thursday night, April 10th after nightfall. Before the search, the blessing of "Al Biur Chametz" is recited. After the search, Kol Chamira (nullification declaration, for unidentified chametz) is recited. Those who are traveling or are otherwise unable to do the search that night, should do so (without a bracha) on the last night they will be present in their home.

Bi'ur Chametz- Burning/Destroying of the Chametz

The Biur Chametz procedure this year takes place on two separate occasions. The first biur chametz (of the chametz found during the Bedika and any other chametz that one does not plan on selling or consuming before 10:39am Shabbat morning) takes place on Friday morning (April 11th) before 11:45am. This procedure is best done by burning the Chametz.

If one does not have access or the ability to burn one's chametz, one may crumble it and flush it down the toilet.

As mentioned above, any Chametz that one plans on consuming after 11:45am on Friday morning until 10:39am Shabbat morning, must be set aside. If any of the chametz that was set aside, was not consumed before 10:39am Shabbat morning, it must be disposed of before 11:45am Shabbat morning. Since it is forbidden to light a fire on Shabbat, the best way to do this second Biur is by crumbling the chametz and flushing it down the toilet. One may not simply put the chametz in one's garbage (either inside or outside), because even after doing so, it is still in their possession.

Once one has disposed of the last of the Chametz in their possession on Shabbat morning, they should then recite the Kol Chamira (nullification of the Chametz), also before 11:45am.

Sof Zman Achilat Chametz/Latest time to eat Chametz

One must finish eating all Chametz by 10:39am on Shabbat morning, April 12th. Davening in shul will be at 8:15am with Kiddush taking place before Musaf to make sure we finish the Chametz food before 10:39am.

A Kosher for Pesach dessert (Seudat Shlishit) will be served in shul after davening.

The First Seder Night - Motza'ai Shabbat, April 12th

Due to the fact that it is forbidden to light a fire on Shabbat, one must wait until 8:10pm to do Yom Tov candle lighting for the first night of Pesach. Similarly one must wait until nightfall before setting up for the Seder.

There is a special Kiddush that includes Havdalah (see the Haggadah for further instruction). One should not make Kiddush and begin the Seder before nightfall.

The Second Seder Night- Sunday, April 13th

One must make sure to wait until the first day of Yom Tov is over before prepping any of the food or lighting the candles for the second day of Yom Tov. This year, the earliest time for such activity is 8:11pm. The second night of Pesach is the first day of Sefirat HaOmer.

Motza'ai Yom Tov - End of First Days of Yom Tov

The first days of Yom Tov end Monday evening April 14th at 8:12pm. Havdalah is recited without Besamim (spices) or Aish (fire).

Chol HaMoed Pesach (Tuesday April 15th- Friday April 18th)

Davening during Chol Hamo'ed has numerous changes and insertions including:

- Ya'aleh V'yavo is inserted into the Shacharit, Mincha and Maariv Shmoneh Esrei as well as Bentching.
- Special Musaf Shmoneh Esrei for Pesach is recited each day of Chol HaMoed.
- Special Torah reading every day of Chol HaMo'ed during Shacharit.

Many have the custom to not wear Tefillin over Chol HaMo'ed.

For specific questions regarding the laws of Chol HaMo'ed please speak to your local Halachic authority.

Yizkor Candle

It is customary for those who will be reciting Yizkor to have a Yizkor candle, representing the soul of their departed loved one, lit in their home for Yom Tov. If one is able to procure one, it is best to acquire a 48-hour Yizkor candle and light it on Erev Yom Tov/Shabbat, this year Friday, April 18th, before one kindles the Shabbat and Yom Tov candles. Those who are unable to procure a 48 hour candle and still want to light a Yizkor candle, must wait until after Shabbat has concluded before lighting the Yizkor candle- this year 8:18 pm Saturday night, April 19th.

Erev Shabbat (7th night of Pesach)

Candle lighting is at 7:17pm. Kiddush on Friday night is the Yom Tov Kiddush with the inserts for Pesach and Shabbat.

Motza'ai Shabbat (8th night of Pesach)

One must make sure to wait until Shabbat and the 7th day of Yom Tov is over before prepping any of the food or lighting the candles for the 8th day of Yom Tov. This year, the earliest time for such activity is 8:18pm. There are special insertions into the Yom Tov Kiddush to include Havdalah (see a Siddur for further instruction).

Yizkor

We recite Yizkor in shul on the morning of the 8th day of Pesach (Sunday, April 20th). Yizkor will be approximately between 10am-10:30am.

Motza'ai Pesach- Conclusion of Passover

Pesach concludes at 8:19pm on Sunday, April 20th. One may not eat the chametz that one sold until 9:30pm, when it has been legally bought back. Havdalah is recited without Besamim (spices) or Aish (fire).

If you have any questions regarding any Pesach preparations or any other questions Rabbi Meyers can be reached at rabbi@ljcagbi.org.

Kari's Texas-Inspired Cholent

Winning Recipe—Cholent Cookoff

This cholent is very meaty, with lots of garlic and just enough heat.

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 lbs-2 lbs beef cholent meat (your choice of cut - I get the tray of "cholent meat")
- 1 tbsp neutral oil (if I have leftover meat grease I like to use that!)
- 1 large Spanish onion, diced
- 1 large jalapeno pepper, diced garlic cloves (to taste, I like at least 6), minced
- 1 tbsp beef flavor consomme powder
- 1 cup small white beans (rinsed)
- 1 cup pearled barley (rinsed)
- 2 large white potatoes, cut into large chunks
- 1 large sweet potato, cut into large chunks kosher salt

pepper

paprika (smoked or regular - I prefer smoked)

1 frozen meat kishke,

plastic removed & wrapped in foil

Optional: a tray of beef marrow bones

Preparation:

1. Heat oil in a heavy skillet on medium-high. Add cholent meat and brown, Remove from pan, and set aside.

Cut out this page and save in your recipe book

- 2. Add onions to the same pan and cook until translucent and just beginning to brown. Add garlic and jalapeno.
- 3. Add beans, barley, and potatoes to the crockpot (I usually use my Instant pot)
- 4. Layer the meat and onion mixture.
- 5. Season to taste with spices (I like it with a LOT of fresh cracked pepper)
- 6. Add remaining ingredients, including the kishke in its foil wrapper & marrow bones. Cover with water.
- 7. Cook on low until lunchtime! Just before serving, unwrap the kishke and mix it in.
- 8. Serve with giardiniera for extra zing.

Your presence is greatly needed: please attend

Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation A G Beth Israel, our Shul, has always maintained two daily minyanim for Shacharit and for Mincha/Maariv (or just Maariv during the winter months). It continues to be difficult to guarantee that 10 men will be present for davening. Your help is urgently needed to ensure that a full minyan is present for everyone, especially those who have Yahrzeit or are in their year of mourning. Please attend whenever you are able.

Off the Subject

A mechanic was removing a cylinder-head from the motor of a Harley motorcycle when he spotted his cardiologist - Dr. Simon Goldstein in his shop. Dr. Goldstein was there waiting for the service manager to come take a look at his bike when the mechanic shouted across the garage:

"Hey Doc, want to take a look at this?"

Dr. Goldstein, a bit surprised, walked over to where the mechanic was working on the motorcycle. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, look at this engine. I open its heart, take the valves out, repair any damage, and then put them back in, and when I finish, it works just like new." "So how come I make such a small salary - and you get the really big bucks? You and I are doing basically the same work!"

Dr. Goldstein paused, smiled and leaned over, then whispered to the mechanic, "Try doing it with the engine running."