

March/April 2010
Adar-Nissan-Ayar
5770



Community Seder
April 3, 5:30 pm
at Miller Park!!

Led by Cantor
Les Kushner!



www.bnaibigbear.org

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REFLECTIONS FROM OUR
PRESIDENT

Joe Balistocky

REFLECTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT March-April 2010

This year our Passover celebration is Saturday April 3, 5:30 pm at Miller Park.

While Jewish holidays are normally synagogue focused, the Seder is conducted in the home and at communal Seders organized by congregations.

The Seder is integral to Jewish faith and identity. If not for divine intervention, the Jewish people would still be slaves in Egypt. The Seder is an occasion for recollection and thanksgiving for our liberation. It is customary to invite guests as well as family because the Seder is unique in its interactive character. The words and rituals of the Seder transmit our faith from one generation to the next, from grandparent to child to grandchild. Attending the Seder and eating matzot on Passover is a blessing and a widespread custom among the Jewish community.

Our Cantor Les Kushner will be leading an inspirational Seder again with his knowledge of our prayers and history and his beautiful voice.

So bring your favorite Passover kugel, fruit, vegetable, side dish, or dessert and we'll provide the other Passover specialties just like your grandmother made.

Last year we had over 80 people at our Seder, so please reserve by March 27. We want you and everyone you bring to be assured of seats.

Passover is a joyous festival that displaces the sadness in the world and helps us take heart from the holiday's lessons of transcendence and joy. We look forward to seeing you and wish you in advance a wonderful and very happiest holiday.

Shalom,
Joe

“BITS AND PIECES from SUGARLOAF”

By Jonathan Sprecher

A friend of mine used to talk about the “book of great Jewish athletes”, which he said was two pages long. Even the recent movie “Year One” says Jews are “not good at sports”. Maybe this is why winters are so rough on our congregation—I think the book of great Jewish arctic explorers must be similarly short, or maybe have no pages at all. Even though most of our families came to the U.S. through chilly New York and lived a generation or so on the East Coast, given the opportunity we seem to flee to warmer climes as soon as possible (in my case, my parents took me to Tucson, AZ in 1949 when I was a year old). The wallop of this winter in Big Bear caused us to cancel events, including our Purim party, and we missed seeing our Big Bear Jewish mishpucha for several weeks at a time.

Thankfully, the weather seems to be warming, and we hope for good conditions for our Seder on April 3. In this case, we will have the event rain (snow) or shine because it is that important. So be sure to come, even if there is a little snow on the ground or a chill in the air!

You know, what I said above implies that Jews abhor hardship. We know that is not true overall. If you will forgive another joke, I think Woody Allen said that Jews know pain, and where to get good Chinese food. Those of us here today have all benefited from the hardship of prior generations, from before Egypt to the twentieth century. And from the looks of things in the mid-east, this century will not lack hardship and pain. In the Seder, we always say “Next year in Jerusalem!” Maybe some of us will make that happen, but more important, we need to continue to support Israel and what it represents to the rest of the world. Thankfully, I read in the NY Times today that V.P. Joe Biden said that the U.S. bond with Israel is unshakeable.

As a congregation, we may not agree with all of the Reform Judaism social and political agenda, but we do agree on the need to be united in support of Israel. Can we even imagine a world without it?

Shalom.

SHABBAT POT LUCK

6:30 pm on the second and fourth Friday of the month at Miller Park: Shabbat pot luck dinner. Bring a main dish or a dessert and join us to observe the Sabbath at the end of a busy week.

SATURDAY SERVICES

10 am on the first Saturday of every month we meet at Miller Park for Services and Torah studies, led by Cantor Les Kushner or a knowledgeable lay member of our congregation.

HAVDALLAH CELEBRATIONS

Havdallah is a B'nai Big Bear tradition, usually hosted by a B'nai Big Bear family at 7:00 pm *on the third Saturday of each month.*

CLASSES

Torah Study may be scheduled by advance reservation. Held at Miller Park before other events; private lessons also available.

B'nai Big Bear
PO Box 3677
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315
909-866-9556
Contact@bnaibigbear.org

PASSOVER 2010

Join Us For a Family Seder

Saturday, April 3 at 5:30 p.m.

Miller Park , 1178 Chicksaw Rd., Fawnskin

Seder conducted by our Cantor, Les Kushner

*** featuring our luscious, traditional Passover menu**

Bring your favorite Passover kugel, fruit, vegetable, side dish, or dessert

We'll provide the other Passover specialties just like Grandma made

Advance reservation required by March 27 so we can order food

Reserve early as we fill up.

We are known in the Big Bear Valley for our great food and fun.

Please mail your check to B'nai Big Bear, PO Box 3677, Big Bear Lake, Ca 92315

\$40.00 per adult, \$10.00 per child

We need help to set up before / clean up after the Seder.

We will start setting up at 3 pm.

People setting up should arrive no later than 4:15 pm.

Name _____ Number of People _____

Enclosed is our check for \$ _____ (\$40.00 per adult, \$10.00 per child)

I/We will be able to help by an additional contribution (check): _____

I/We will help set up _____ or help clean up _____

Many thanks, and see you on April 3!

March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Th	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 am Miller Park
7	8	9	10	11	12 Shabbat 6:30 pm Miller Park	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Havdallah 7:00 pm Location TBA
21 Board Meeting TBA	22	23	24	25	26 Shabbat 6:30 pm Miller Park	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tu	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Shabbat Service 10 am Miller Park/ SEDER 5:30 pm see flyer
4	5	6	7	8	9 Shabbat 6:30 pm Miller Park	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Havdallah 7:00 pm Location TBA
18 Board Meeting Location TBA	19	20	21	22	23 Shabbat 6:30 pm Miller Park	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Shabbat 6:30 pm Miller Park	

B'nai Big Bear

P.O. Box 3677
Big Bear Lake, CA



"Blessed are the young, for they will inherit the national debt"

—Herbert Hoover

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