



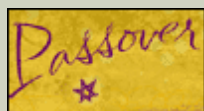
services

fridays

March 5	7:30 pm
March 12	7:30 pm
<i>Social Responsibility Shabbat</i>	
March 19	7:30 pm
<i>Social Responsibility Shabbat</i>	
March 26	7:30 pm

saturdays

March 6	10:00 am
<i>Ki Tisa</i>	
March 6	5:00 pm
<i>Vayak'heil/P'kudei</i> Bar mitzvah of Justin Weisman	
March 13	10:00 am
<i>Vayak'heil/P'kudei</i>	
March 20	10:00 am
<i>Vayikra</i>	
March 27	10:00 am
<i>Tzav</i>	



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“When do we eat?”

A number of years ago, someone wanted to show me a Hagaddah that they had found within the stack of the Maxwell House editions kept for use every year at Passover. On the page where the words, ‘*Eat The Festive Meal*’ appeared, there was a list with two columns; one for times, and the other for years. 1979...6:15; 1981...6:33, etc. This certainly will make for an interesting document for the family archives, but it also makes me wonder if this is indicative of a more general tendency for seder participants to emphasize the meal over the service that precedes it. Is “When will we eat already” the unofficial fifth question of Passover?

At my house, unfortunately, meals when we are all at the table together are somewhat rare. There is shabbes dinner, and most Sunday nights too, but even then I am left with this feeling of wanting more time with my family. For me, Passover is one holy moment each year that addresses this need. The seder was conceived to be ‘dinner-plus,’ an experience that was built into the daily need to eat but goes far beyond it as well. Its development really was one of those examples of religious genius. The Torah teaches that each generation is responsible for teaching their children the story of the slavery in Egypt and the miraculous redemption, but leaves out any further details. But it was the later rabbis who saw the appeal of the Greco-Roman festive and song-filled discussion banquet known as Symposium and crafted a Passover event, a night that is supposed to be different from all other nights.

Through discussions, readings of passages, rituals, symbolic foods, games, and singing, the seder is designed to tell the story and teach its lessons very eclectically. This began thousands of years before educational philosophers started to point out that it is vitally important to present a lesson so that it can be

received by students with a variety of personalities, learning styles, and life experiences. At the seder, we are to linger at the table, re-connect to ancient days through an experience with those we love today, learning from one another and enjoying each other’s company. It seems to be a wasted opportunity to rush it.

One way to combat the ‘when do we eat’ obstacle is to make sure that there are hors d’oeuvres (besides the ritual dipping of parsley in salt water) on the table for early on in the seder. This is actually an original custom from the Mishnah (the book where most of the seder customs took shape), and recognizes that when the stomach gets its due, the mind is liberated to engage more effectively. Another idea is to periodically ask evocative, conversation-starting questions about what is going on and how it relates to everybody’s real lives as part of the service. This too, comes from the sources, as the Mishnah offered the original ‘4 Questions’ only to be suggestions to get things going, in case the preferred spontaneous discussions were slow to start. (For many other wonderful suggestions/resources, look up *A Different Night: The Family Participation Haggadah* by Noam Zion and David Dishon.)

Here at CRC, there are plenty of opportunities to be part of a ‘Passover symposium’ after the first night ends. We are hosting a second seder, gender specific seders, a seder for our LGBT community, and a seder focusing on American slavery and multi-racial Judaism. We will engage in deep and rich learning, sharing, singing, and experiencing. And, eventually, we will eat the festive meal!

B’ahavah,
Rabbi Randy

a Jewish presence in the City of St. Louis

Mazel tov to...

Ellie Scherk on her Bat Mitzvah

Kathleen Sitzer on receiving the JProStl Visionary award for her work as Producing Artistic Director of the New Jewish Theatre

Sincere condolences to...

Joe Weixlmann on the death of his mother. Mary Weixlmann

Welcome new members...

Karen and John DeGuire
and Gabriel and Lillian

Margie Palazzolo
and Joseph and Benjamin

Lawrence and Margaret Weintraub

**Board Notes**

Updates from Your CRC Board of Directors

Prior to its February 11 meeting, the Board met with several Next Dor representatives and toured the recently renovated house. The Board appointed Bruce Shapiro as liaison to the Next Dor group. He will meet regularly with Next Dor representatives to discuss common issues and monitor use of the house.

The Board appointed Steve Sorkin as a liaison to the Soul of the Building Committee. The committee meets periodically to discuss aesthetic issues affecting the temple facility and grounds.

The Board received the Nominating Committee Report for 2010-2011. The report, with the slate for the 2010-2011 Board of Directors, was mailed to all households at the end of February.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, March 11, 7:30 pm – all CRC members welcome!

**A Table for You:
Passover Matches**

Monday, March 29th

FIRST NIGHT PASSOVER

For all who have room in your First Night Seder or would like to attend one, please contact Maggie Duwe: maggie@central-reform.org or 361-1564 ext. 112.

Please contact us *soon*, so we can accommodate as many folks as possible.

Leslies Sings from Her Heart for Haiti

Thanks to the enormous amount of generous talent in our congregation, and the enthusiastic audience we had on January 23, our CRC Hearts For Haiti Benefit brought in over \$7,400.

After the benefit, checks continued to trickle in, but in an attempt to reach that \$10,000 mark, our member and benefit co-producer Leslie Caplan offered to sing Valentine's songs to raise additional funds. According to Leslie, she was on the phone Valentine's Day from 8:00 in the morning to 10:00 at night, singing a combination of funny and romantic Valentine Day songs to dozens of surprised and delighted recipients.

"I cannot tell you how many times I heard the words, you made my day," said Leslie, "which made the fourteen hours of nonstop singing worth every moment." So far her efforts have raised an additional \$700; our total to send to Haiti Relief is now \$9,000.

Leslie said that she will continue her singing efforts to raise funds for Haiti, so if you have an occasion for which you would like a song, send her an email at: lesliecaplan@sbcglobal.net and she will sing to your loved ones both far and near. Not only will you make those birthdays and anniversaries that much more special, you will also be doing a mitzvah and contributing to Haiti.

LINKS

Facebook

Become a fan of CRC



Health Care Updates

<http://ga6.org/faithbeyondwalls/mohcfa.html>



Recent Events at CRC

stories and pictures added regularly

pesach

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Second Seder Is a Rich Tradition at CRC

Tuesday, March 30, 6:00 to 9:00 pm

Rabbi Randy will lead our community on the second night of Passover in a meaningful and joyous celebration of political and spiritual liberation. We'll ask more than four questions around our extended seder tables. Please join us--everyone is welcome and childcare is provided during the seder.

To keep the cost affordable, each household is asked to bring wine or white grape juice for the seder and one Passover dessert to share. Complete seder plates and plenty of matzoh will be provided. The rest of the holiday meal will be catered by Renee Deall/Beautiful Food Catering.

We must have your RSVP and payment by Monday, March 22 in order to plan for this seder, which is limited to the first 150 respondents with paid reservations.



SECOND SEDER 2010

Tuesday, March 30, 6:00 pm

RSVP by Monday, March 22

_____ Number of adults x \$20 _____

_____ Number of kids x \$10 _____
(kids under 5 are free)

Total on enclosed check \$ _____

_____ Number of vegetarian meals

Attendees (include those under 5) :

Mail to CRC:

5020 Waterman Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108

Make check payable to CRC with
"Second Seder" on the memo line.

The only reservations are PAID
reservations received by March 22.

Additional Seders Enrich Pesach at CRC

8th Annual Women's Seder

Wednesday, March 31, 6:00 pm

Lift your voice in song and laughter as we retell the Passover story together. Bring a dish, to serve 12, according to your last name: A-H (vegetarian salad), I-N (wine and dessert), O-Z (vegetarian side dish). Matzo ball chicken and vegetarian soup and juice will be provided. Please reserve your space by emailing maggie@centralreform.org.

Please send \$5 to CRC to cover expenses and write "women's seder" on the memo line. If you have questions, please call Maggie at 361-1564, ext. 112.



3rd Annual Men's Seder

Thursday, April 1, 6:00 pm

It's a potluck! We always have a great time together. Pesach should be no exception.

Contact Michael DiPlacido at 351-6552 for more information and to RSVP.

LGBT Seder

Friday, April 2, 6:00 pm

Our group grows and grows! Join us for our Pesach seder and potluck. Together with Rabbi Susan, we will honor and celebrate this amazing season.

Bring a dish, to serve 12, according to your last name: A-G (vegetarian salad or side dish), H-N (vegetarian main dish), O-Z (dessert and wine). Reserve your space by contacting Maggie at 361-1564 ext. 112 or maggie@centralreform.org.

Dismantling Racism Seder

Saturday, April 3, 6:00 pm

A multi-racial group of Jews and Israelites will gather to celebrate our diversity and use the seder format to remember African slavery in the Americas.

Please bring a vegetarian dish for the potluck dinner. Childcare is available. RSVP to Sharon at 361-1564 ext. 101 or sharon@centralreform.org.

Contact Maggie Duwe, Interfaith/ Outreach Coordinator, at 361-1564, ext 112 or maggie@centralreform.org for more information on the following programs:

Basic Judaism

Saturday, March 20, 12:15 pm

Please join us as we learn, discuss and experience Passover. We'll journey through what we do and why we do it. And what it all means to us today.

Jewish History from Women's Perspectives

Friday, March 5, 12:00 pm

Let's join together to study Jewish history, beginning in the rabbinic period-the first century and a little before. We'll study the influences and relationships of the Jews, Christians, and Romans during these times, being sure to include the roles and voices of women in our study. Later in the series, we'll study the rabbinic writings... the Mishnah, Gemorah, Talmud, and Midrash...and how they relate to our history as Jews and as women.

For our March gathering we will look at our timelines, so we can continue to find ourselves in history. And we will continue our study in the early Rabbinic Period, of the Rabbis of the time. Who were they? How did they come to be? What did they say and how did that impact Judaism? And us?

Jewish History meets the first Friday of the month at 12:00 noon.

Jewish Traditions from Women's Perspectives

Wednesday, March 10, 12:00 noon

Have you ever wondered what our traditions are and how they got started? Have you ever wondered how you fit into those traditions...as a woman and even more as a modern liberal woman? We will look at many traditions and thoughts throughout Judaism – Shabbat, Niddah-

(laws governing women's purity and behavior), kashrut (kosher laws), afterlife, wearing kepot and tallit, women as spiritual leaders and teachers, etc. What is the story behind these and how do we as women, fit in? How are our voices heard, not just in the room next door, but in the main rooms?

For our March meeting we will talk about Mourning and Death, from a Jewish and women's point of view. We will look at the rituals in an in depth way and how they impact us today.

Jewish Traditions meets the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon.

Update from Essie

Assistant Director of Lifelong Learning

Have you planned for your comfort? I do not mean your house, clothes and financial well-being. If you are comfortable, how did you get there and is anything missing? Sometimes, planning for some "discomfort" results in growth. People are life-long learners. If you find yourself feeling comfortable all the time, seek some healthy discomfort. Push yourself to try new things and develop habits with a purpose. Make your life with purpose, on purpose.

Our wonderful Shabbat and Hebrew School community continues to grow and learn. With the help of our newest CRC teachers, Steve Friedman, Bill Sitzer, Robert Fishbone, Debbie Harris, and Sarah Anne Patz, our students are learning ways to pray that aren't in any siddur. If you would like to join the fun and learning, let us know. Thank you to everyone for the support and kind words as we grow and learn together.

Be kind, help others, teach, and listen. Come to CRC and support your congregation in worship, learning, social action and community building. Be Jewish, everyday!

Shalom Y'all, Essie

Spiral Series Continues

Join us for the final four programs in our 2010 Spiral Series:

"THE ART OF INTERFAITH DIALOGUE"!

Sunday, March 14, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

"Israel & Palestine"

Mazen Badra, Minds of Peace Experiment

The "Minds of Peace Experiment" is a series of unique exercises in peacemaking and conflict resolution. It proposes simulations of a potential Palestinian-Israeli public assembly – a multi-party negotiating congress. The assembly is designed to involve the people in the peace process through provoking a public debate over central issues. Mazen Badra, a professor at Webster University and Sanford-Brown, will discuss his experience as a Palestinian involved in Minds of Peace and the possibility of peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Sunday, March 21, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

"Culture and Religion"

Dr. Damayanthi Niles, Associate Professor of Constructive Theology, Eden Theological Seminary

Dr. Niles is a Presbyterian minister and true citizen of the world. She has lived, worked and studied in several countries and challenges stereotypes and assumptions with her stories and her eclectic experience and world view. She will share her faith journey as a Christian in Muslim and Hindu countries and help us understand how culture and personal theology can deepen our faith.

Sunday, March 28, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

"Windows on Iran"

Dr. Fatemeh Keshavarz-Karamustafa, Chair, Department of Asian & Near Eastern Languages & Literatures, Washington University in St. Louis

continued from page 4

A native of Iran, Dr. Keshavarz began the “Windows on Iran” series in the summer of 2006 in order to provide reliable information about contemporary Iranian politics and culture, and to counteract the unrelenting barrage of negative news about Iran in the mainstream U.S. media. Join us to learn in person from the Honorary Co-Chair of the national Iranians for Peace organization.

Sunday, April 18, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Concert & Celebration

Imam Muhammad Hasic and Rabbi James Stone Goodman

We’ll conclude our series with a concert and celebration of Jewish and Bosnian music and culture, re-igniting the beauty and poetry of the shared Jewish-Muslim experience of Sarajevo.



SPECIAL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY SHABBAT

CRC’s Ninth Grade Class

Friday, March 12, 7:30 pm

On March 5, CRC’s 9th Grade class will head to Washington, D.C., to learn about advocacy and to lobby their U.S. Senators and Representatives on issues of tikkun olam that they select. On March 12, the students will share their lobbying speeches with the congregation as part of Social Responsibility Shabbat.

Every year, our 9th grade students do a wonderful job of lobbying on Capitol Hill in Washington. Don’t miss this opportunity to hear from them!

Juvenile Detention Center: Volunteers Needed

Wednesday, March 10, 6:00-8:00 pm

FINDING & APPLYING FOR YOUR FIRST JOB

Join us for what has become CRC’s “signature” program for Juvenile Detention Center students. We’ll talk to the students as a group about applying for jobs and then work individually with them to help them package their experience into an effective job application.

CRC volunteers who have participated in this program before have found that it is easy and the rewards are great, with students’ self-esteem visibly increasing as they come to understand that they have what it takes to get a job.

Experienced CRC volunteers will be there to run the program, but we need CRC volunteers to come work with the students. No experience is necessary – just two hours of your time and a caring heart. Can you help?

To volunteer, contact Jen Bersdale at jennifer@centralreform.org or 361-1564 ext. 116.

Local Election Day



Tuesday, April 6 is Election Day for local municipalities and school districts. April 6 is also the last day of Passover. If you (or someone you know) would like to participate in the election process but feel that you cannot because of the holiday please know there are two ways you can be observant and still cast your vote. One way is to call the Board of Election Commissioners in St. Louis County or in the City depending on where you live and request that an absentee ballot be mailed to you. The other way is sometime in the 30 days preceding the election to go to the appropriate election headquarters and vote. The latter is very easy and fast.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY SHABBAT

Poverty: Changing the Paradigm, Employment Barriers

Friday, March 19, 7:30 pm

Everyone knows that getting a good job is one of the most important steps out of poverty, but it’s harder for a person living in poverty to get and keep a good job than we might think. Barriers such as inadequate public transportation and lack of affordable childcare often make it difficult or impossible for people to secure employment. Join us for a discussion about what these barriers are and how we can make it easier for people to work and support themselves and their families.

Health Care Update

CRC is continuing to work with health care allies to help push health reform across the finish line, and things are changing by the day! Watch for updates in CRC’s weekly newsletter as well as special e-mails when there is major news or when we need to take action.

