

Rabbi's report for March/April 2015

Dear Friends,

Our community Pesach Seder was a wonderful success with lots of singing, participation, laughter, celebration and discussion. We hosted 77 people. Ron and Barsha Tolin, Sally Cohn, and Nancy Salon did an amazing job with the delicious catered food and creating beautiful and heymeshe space.

We will be commemorating Yom Hashoah on Wednesday, April 15th with a memorial service and a speaker on the lost wooden synagogues of Europe. On Friday, April 17th we will celebrate Israel Independence Day as part of our Shabbat evening service, enjoying Israeli songs and food.

Our Adult learning community has been very engaged. We have a weekly Talmud Shiur (class) on Wednesday mornings, a lay-led Torah study on Monday evenings, and a monthly Yiddish literature class. We just read a masterpiece of Yiddish literature for our April class by Jacob Glatshateyn called *Homeward Bound in The Glatstein Chronicles* edited by Ruth Wisse. I highly recommend it. We will be reading Chaim Grade for our next class on May 31st. Please check in with the office for the reading if you would like to join us. We also look forward to a discussion of the Israeli elections on May 3rd at 10:30am and of the book *My Promised Land*, by Ari Shavit on May 14th at 7:00pm.

On April 9th I attended a roundtable with Island clergy on substance abuse with guest speaker, Representative Bill Keating. We are facing an epidemic of substance abuse in our country from prescription pain medications and opiates to alcohol and other drug abuse. This epidemic has affected people of all ages and backgrounds. I was impressed with the work Congressman Keating is doing to heighten awareness of this public health issue. I hope we as a community will be part of an Island-wide and nation-wide effort to help prevent and free people of addiction.

Next month, I look forward to attending meetings with the Massachusetts Board of Rabbis on medical ethics and end-of-life

decisions as well as a meeting of the Boston area J-Street Rabbinic Cabinet with J-Street Executive Director Jeremy Ben-Ami.

I look forward to welcoming people back to the Island over the next few months. We have missed you! I hope everyone had a wonderful Pesach and look forward to marching together toward Sinai/Shavuoth this holiday season.

L'shalom,
Rabbi Caryn Broitman