

**April 2018**

**Nissan 16, 5778 – Iyar 15, 5778**

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**Message From Rabbi Judy**

Well, spring is definitely here. The azaleas are blooming and yellow pollen is everywhere. The days have been gorgeous…beautiful sunshine, a slight breeze, truly perfect weather. We do live in a magnificent world!

With each spring comes Passover, the true beginning of our Jewish calendar year. It is a time of year when we recall our exodus from Egypt and begin our countdown to the giving of the 10 Commandments on Sinai which we celebrate with the holiday of Shavuot. We are told that we should each feel as if we were personally brought out of Egypt and personally witnessed the thunder and lightning as God spoke to our people giving us laws to live by for all time and throughout every generation.

If you have ever watched Cecile B. DeMille’s classic film, “The Ten Commandments,” he shows Moses receiving the Ten Commandments all on his own while the Jewish people were busy worshipping an idol, the golden calf. Movies always need conflict and tension to be good, right? But, Mr. DeMille should have done a little more reading of his Torah to understand the true story.

The Torah tells us that the “entire people” heard God speak at Mount Sinai, experiencing national revelation. God did not just appear to Moses in a private session; God appeared to everyone, some 3 million people. This claim is mentioned many times in the Torah:

[Moses told the Israelites]: “Only beware for yourself and greatly beware for your soul, lest you forget the things that your eyes have beheld. Do not remove this memory from your heart all the days of your life. **Teach your children and your children's children about the day that you stood before the Lord your God** **at** Horev [**Mount Sinai**]...

God spoke to you from the midst of the fire, you were hearing the sound of words, but you were not seeing a form, only a sound. God told you of God’s covenant, instructing you to keep the Ten Commandments, and God inscribed them on two stone tablets.” (Deut.4:9-13)

“You have been shown in order to know that God is the Supreme Being. There is none besides God. From heaven God let you hear (His) voice in order to teach you, and on earth God showed you great fire, and you heard God’s words amid the fire.” (Deut. 4:32-36)

“Moses called all of Israel and said to them: 'Hear, O Israel, the decrees and the ordinances that I speak in your ears today ― learn them, and be careful to perform them. Adonai your God sealed a covenant with us at Horev [Mount Sinai]. Not with our forefathers did God seal this covenant, but with us ― we who are here, all of us alive today. Face to face did God speak with you on the mountain from amid the fire.” (Deut. 5:1-4)

According to these accounts in the Torah, 3 million Jews heard God speak the laws. God also instructed us to teach them to our children and our children’s children. This is called TRADITION! What we remember and pass on to the next generation is how our people continue to thrive and live. It is so important to practice these traditions within our Jewish community and our Jewish families. It is also important to share our traditions and teach others about our ancient heritage.

I am thankful that our Temple held a Community Seder. This allowed all of those who wanted to share the traditions of this special holiday to come together as a community to continue the sacred celebration of Passover. The Seder reminds us that we were once slaves and strangers and that we must always be thankful for our blessings and always be mindful of those who need our care and help.

I hope you and your family enjoy this Passover season and that the holiday has allowed you to share our traditions and our blessings with your neighbors and younger generations. Our children are the light to the future…it is their responsibility to carry our traditions into the next generation.

I will be with you again the weekend of May 18-19 when we will celebrate Shavuot, the giving of the Torah.

B’shalom,

Rabbi Judy

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**END OF THE YEAR/ANNUAL MEETING**

March 31th is the end of the fiscal year. Please make sure your dues are paid up-to-date by March 31, 2018. They must be up-to-date for you to be eligible to vote in the upcoming Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 6 at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

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**YAHRZEIT**

**APRIL 6TH**

Hattie Strauss Gertie Scherck Jones

 David L. Davidson Jack Rubin

 Sophie W. Smith Jacob Benjamin Pickens

 Jacob Benjamin Pickens Cecil Mack Adler

 Sophie Rosenberg Hannah W. Shlenker

 Leon Sugar

**APRIL 13TH**

 Judy LaSov Rosalie Fischel Rose

 Frances LaSov Molly Abrams

 Beatrice Finkelor Nathan Kern

 Regina Scherck Milton J. Newmann

 Maurice Glazer Emma Sugar

 Birdie Marx

**APRIL 20TH**

Clara S. Kaplan Henry Haas, Sr.

Louis Masur Charles Flemin

Fred Lowe

**APRIL 27TH**

 David Snyder Mini Schendle

 Rose Goldman Masur

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Don & Phyllis Marcus April 4th 64 years

Jimmie and Betsy Laudenheimer April 7th 28 years

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Cynthia Kern – April 1st Melinda Mintz – April 4th

Daniel Hakim (4 years old) – April 17th Pam Laudenheimer – April 23rd

Nancy King – April 29th

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 **SERVICE SCHEDULE**

APRIL 6TH Kash Schriefer

APRIL 13th Bob EisenstadtAPRIL 20TH Alan Barth

APRIL 27TH Mike Rhymes

 Lay leaders are subject to change.

**DONATIONS**

**ARCHIVES FUND**

**In memory of Edna Doernberg**

Ron and Sandra Blate

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**RITUAL AND WORSHIP**

I am looking forward to the Community Seder on March 30th. Rabbi Judy will be here to lead the service. There are several people from the Community that are attending. We have 40 people coming to the Seder.

Rabbi Judy will have Tot Shabbat at 9:30 am and Torah study at 10:30 am

Thank you to Bob Eisenstadt, Mike Rhymes, and Deb Roa for leading services in March.

 Rabbi Judy’s next visit will be on May 18th - 19th. In additional to our regular service, Tot Shabbat, and Torah Study, she will also conduct the class “Taste of Judaism”. The class is free and is open to the public. If you have family, friends, or neighbors that would like to learn a little bit about Judaism, please invite them.

 Gay Nell Barth, Chair

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**SISTERHOOD NEWS**

Reminder: Sisterhood Passover Luncheon will be Tuesday, April 3rd at 11:30 a.m. at Betsy Laudenheimer’s home. Please call 325-8350 to make your reservation.

Sisterhood dues for 2018-2019 are $35. Please mail to:

Betsy Laudenheimer

[3508 Lake DeSiard Drive](https://maps.google.com/?q=3508+Lake+DeSiard+Drive+Monroe,+LA+71201&entry=gmail&source=g)

[Monroe, LA 71201](https://maps.google.com/?q=3508+Lake+DeSiard+Drive+Monroe,+LA+71201&entry=gmail&source=g)

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**MEN’S CLUB**

 **The Men’s Club meeting is April 8th at 10:00 AM at the Piccadilly Restaurant**.

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**BRONZE PLAQUES AVAILABLE FOR SALE**

There is space available for bronze plaques on the Yahrzeit Board in the front foyer. The plaques include the name of your loved one and their Yahrzeit date in both the Gregorian date and the Jewish date. The lights on both sides of their plaque are turned on the week of the Yahrzeit. This is a wonderful way to remember your loved ones. The cost of each plaque is $250.00. Contact the office for more information and to place your order.

**ARCHIVES/MUSEUM NEWS**

Recently the archives/museum received a wonderful collection on the Masur family organized by Tim Masur and donated by his sister Sharon Farrar, nee Masur, of Lafayette. Other siblings contributing to the collection are Linda Bryan, nee Masur, Charles (Janet) Masur, and Sylvia Masur Thompson.

The collection includes pictures of Emma Smith Rosenbaum, Eugene Chan, Jack Masur, Sylvan Masur, Sig Masur, Herman Masur, and Roseann Marks’s, mother.

The Masur collection includes interesting material on the Masur Museum of Art and the Palace, the department store owned by the Masur family, which was built in 1924. The store sold everything from clothing to household goods.

One of the items that will be on display is an advertisement in Women’s Wear Daily; a fashion-industry trade journal founded in 1910 and is still in existence today.

One of my prettiest coat dresses came from the children's floor of the Palace.  I also remember Big Bea Masur, Sig wife, waiting on me when I purchased doll clothes from the fourth floor.  Many of us have found memories of shopping in downtown Monroe, including the Palace at 220 DeSaird Street.

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If you have any colored pictures of the stain glass windows from the old temple, please contact the office or Sandra Blate.  Some of the ones on display at the temple are beginning to fade. I have no idea where the negatives are located.

Have a memorable Passover week!

Sandra Blate

Administrative Director

**JEWISH FEDERATION OF NORTH LOUISIANA**

The Federation conducted the Holocaust and Poetry Contest this year. Students from Cedar Creek and St.Fredricks High Schools participated in the contest. This project will return to Monroe next year.

In ancient times our ancestors who lived throughout the Roman Empire had a strong connection to Jerusalem.  A tithe was collected in all the towns throughout the Roman Empire and then sent to Jerusalem. This would be an appropriate time to donate to the Jewish Federation of North Louisiana at 245-A Southfield Road, [Shreveport,LA 71105](https://maps.google.com/?q=245-A+Southfield+Road,++Shreveport,La.+71105&entry=gmail&source=g). Part of the money goes directly to Israel; the rest stays in this region to support Jewish needs and programs.

Sandra Blate

Monroe Representative

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**TASTE OF JUDAISM CLASS**

On Saturday, May 19th, Rabbi Judy will offer a Taste of Judaism class in the social hall from 1-4 pm.  The class is open to anyone in the community who wants to learn more about Judaism.  There is no charge, but reservations should be made with the Temple Secretary so we can know how many to expect.  The class will give participants a taste of information on Jewish customs, holidays, traditions, beliefs, etc.  It will also include a tour of the sanctuary and Temple museum and time for questions.  Please let friends in the community know about this.  Shirley will have flyers advertising the event in the office.

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**KALLAH PROJECT**

The children that attended the Kallah in January had a project in which each child (and some adults) decorated a handkerchief with a Jewish theme. The handkerchiefs were then tied together to form a single piece of art. The art piece is hanging on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please stop by and see this wonderful project created by the children of Temple B’nai Israel.

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