

SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Temple Beth El's First Ever Passover 5768 at Temple Beth El Men's Seder

Passover celebrates the blessing of freedom. What are the blessings in a man's life today? The Egyptians were plagued by frogs and darkness. What plagues the lives of today's men? Once we moved from slavery into freedom. What does it mean to be a free man in the 21st century?

Charlotte's first-ever Men's Seder will be held on Thursday, April 24 at 7 PM, sponsored by the Temple Beth El Brotherhood. The evening will feature good food, relevant conversation, and an opportunity to look at the themes of Passover - freedom and responsibility, blessings and plagues -

through the eyes of contemporary men. The event is open to the community and costs \$15, including dinner. To RSVP or for more information, contact Rabbi Micah Streiffer at mstreiffer@beth-el.com or 704-366-1948.



Passover is fast approaching, and Temple Beth El is preparing for its signature holiday events.

This is the time of year when all Jews open their homes and hospitality to families and friends. However, many people in Charlotte do not have family nearby. You can make this holiday truly special by hosting a First Night Seder. If you are new to Charlotte and/or Temple Beth El, or if you would simply like to share Passover, we want you to be part of the Seder Exchange. We match guests and hosts so that all of our congregants and community can share the special warmth of Passover. The Seder Exchange is for first night Seder, Saturday, April 19.

On Sunday morning, April 20, bring your whole family, even the out of town guests to the Matzah Brei Breakfast at 10:15 AM. Our chef prepares a wonderful breakfast featuring Sephardic and Ashkenazic matzah brei plus all the trimmings. The festival morning service will follow breakfast at 11 AM.

Later that day, Temple Beth El will host the Second Night Community Seder at 6 PM. All are

invited to this traditional and fun Seder led by the temple clergy. There will be an early registration for members, and then reservations will be open to the broader community beginning April 5.

For questions or a registration form on any of the Passover events, please contact Stephanie DiPaolo, Program Director at 704-749-3051 or email sdipaolo@beth-el.com. ☆

Havurat Olam Puts the "Community" in Community Seder

Do you think you've seen it all when it comes to Seders? By the third cup of wine are you ready to call it a night? Do you know the answers to the Four Questions before they're even asked? Have you stopped caring where the Afikomen is hidden?

Then get ready for something completely different. Havurat Olam, serving University City and Cabarrus County, is unlike other congregations, so it's no surprise that our Community Seder is unique too.

Leave your expectations behind, because this Seder specializes in the unexpected. A Seder from a previous year included a skit that featured a colony of frogs (who looked suspiciously like congregation children). In addition to the traditional four questions, participants were once asked four silly questions, like "What do you call steaks ordered by ten Jews?" (answer: Filet Minyan.)

But the Seder is not all about silliness. Remember that colony of frogs? They hopped around asking adults playing different roles if it was right and fair for the Egyptians to have suffered the plagues. The answers from

Miriam and an Egyptian farmer made them think about how history is perceived differently depending on who is telling the story, and the skit reminded them to always have compassion for those on the "other side."

What can you expect from this year's community Seder? Good food, for one thing. Congregational potlucks are always a culinary treat, but the Havurat Olam Seder potluck is in a class by itself. Various matzah kugels are long-time favorites, as is the Sefardi haroset. But until you've tried **Mama Ruth's Chocolate Nut Passover Cake**, you haven't lived. (Recipe below.)

If you've attended any Havurat Olam service you know how this congregation loves music. The Seder will feature songs, both sacred and silly, accompanied by the guitar. Rumors are flying that the house rock band will perform the Passover version of a famous song by The Who, complete with electric guitar, bass, and talented back-up singers.

Havurat Olam is a welcoming group, and would love for you to join us for our community Seder. We promise that you will not

leave hungry or without making a few new friends.

Interested in a family-friendly Seder that will make you laugh, inspire you to think, and, above all, taste delicious? Havurat Olam's community Seder will be held on Sunday, April 27 at 6 PM at McGill Baptist Church at 5300 Poplar Tent Road in Concord. The cost is \$5 a person or \$10 a family. To make reservations or to ask questions, please call 704-720-7577, email us at info@havuratolam.org, or visit our website at www.havuratolam.org. ☆



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Mama Ruth's Chocolate Nut Passover Cake

6 jumbo eggs, separated (save the egg whites!)

(All nuts to be toasted before grinding.)

6 oz. ground filbert nuts

7 oz. ground almonds

1 c. sugar

3 oz. matzah cake meal

3 oz. potato starch

3 oz. ground milk chocolate morsels

2 heaping t. of baking powder

¼ c. of orange and lemon juice combined

1 T. water

1 heaping T. yogurt

Beat egg whites until stiff and set aside. Beat egg yolks with water, combined juices, and sugar until light and fluffy. Mix all dry ingredients together and slowly add to egg mixture alternately with the yogurt. Fold in the beaten egg whites by hand. Grease and dust baking form with matzah cake meal. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour.