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Our Trip to Egypt by Barbra Jacobs

Joann Freedman and I went on a trip to Egypt in February - much to the dismay of friends and relatives..We're here to say - that we felt completely safe at all times - except when trying to cross streets. Vehicles have it over pedestrians in Egypt and traffic signals are 'suggestions'. We did go on walks on our own in Cairo, Alexandria and Luxor. People were friendly and helpful and so so happy to see Americans -or tourists of any kind since tourists have almost completely disappeared since the "Arab Spring" . We hear about people being downtrodden in places like Cuba, China and Egypt but when you travel in these areas you see folks just going on about their busy daily lives and looking happy for the most part. The city sidewalks are filled with outdoor cafes where people are enjoying coffee or drinks with friends. Arriving in our Cairo hotel there were the pyramids of Giza right outside our window! I always thought they were in the middle of the desert - but no - right in the middle of Cairo. Next day we got to see them up close and personal and Joann got to go inside one. This day started our never ending 'interaction' with vendors who launch themselves at you wherever you are.

A highlight of Alexandria was the very modern and high tech enabled Alexandria Library also filled with ancient papyrus and Torah scrolls.We enjoyed a walk along the Mediterranean which we could see from our balcony.

Photos don't do the monuments, statues and obelisks justice. They are so huge and have so much art and hieroglyphs inscribed on them that it is impossible to imagine unless you're standing among them, How did they do this? Despite PBS documentaries I don't think there will ever be a definitive answer.

Other highlights were the Valley of the Kings and the Egyptian Museum. When I travel to see wildlife my grandchildren say 'Grandma, why don't you go to the zoo?' How to explain how different it is to see animals in their natural habitat. I have books full of photos of the things we saw but the enormous size and complexity cannot be grasped until you're standing next to them.

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Judaism through the Lens of Weaving

Textiles are an essential aspect of humanity. There is a common language, a concept: threads, interlacing individual elements to become a whole...a fabric... What is the fabric of existence as a Jew? This is a very complex investigation that draws me into the heart of my soul~ and a very humbling endeavor. I listen, as in “Shema, Israel, Adonai, Eloheinu, Adonai Echad.” How does being Jewish interweave with the act of tapestry making, with the creation of a tallit, tablecloth or jacket on the loom?

Our stories, as Jews, are interwoven with various cultures, time, space.... all interlaced within humanity....all interconnected with our individual experiences, family. It is microcosmic as well and universal...an amorphous form that creates the texture of who we are and what we contribute to community, to humanity. Torah becomes a blueprint, a story, so deeply woven into the lattices of brain cells that we unite as a people into the human design with Mystery. Before we speak our stories, we listen. Literally. The inception of tapestry is inspiration.

At the onset of a project, I listen, I gather... a color, a texture, a vibration...I listen some more. I mingle hues, tones, shades: the raw elements of light. Will these coalesce into harmony? There is a large element of unknowing; yet, trusting the Grace that is given. I listen, I gather. I come back to an original question: What is the purpose? I listen, gather, listen some more. Whether the weaving is to be as utilitarian as a tablecloth or tunic, or a piece of art, this process seems, to my perspective, to be what creativity sings into being. Listen. Trust. Be. It is discovery. It is awe. It is gratitude. Sometimes, at the beginning, I work with materials or designs I don't know very well; and I want them to fit into my idea of what I think....But, in a creative, intuitive process, I am willing to listen to what is being asked of me as the weaver. Richard Greenberg, an American playwright, once wrote, *“I'm sort of anti-Aristotelian. I want to get an entire life onstage while conveying a sense of how time feels, and how unstoppable it is, and we don't really know what is going on because as we're trying to weave, it is weaving us.”* Yes, sometimes the tapestry weaves me more than I weave the tapestry. I can argue with it and complain, or I can listen and respond, creating a collaborating dialog and artistic work that is in communion with others in the world and the threads on the loom. In considering the original question: “How does weaving relate to being Jewish?” people/ community are not as “controllable” as gathering inanimate threads; nevertheless, this process endorses a respectful foundation of what it means to honor myself and live in community with others.

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B’Nai Torah Mitzvah Committee

The Mitzvah Committee is here for CBT’s members in times of need. Contact Elissa at 303-666-0853 or eroselyn@mindspring.com if you or another member you know is in need of help (such as a health crisis) or if you are interested in being called when a need arises.



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Weaving is very interesting, because intuitive tapestry making is a listening and expressing that dances the threads over and under, embellishing, allowing and surprising along the way. It can be a metaphor for my original commitment to my relationship with my own Creator and can become a devotion to L'Chaim. The journey is a multitudinous overlaying of eyes, joys, and everything in between....

Sheil Hicks, a famous weaver from NC recalls one of her projects. She said, “The architects stayed with me the whole time. They really listened. They had an understanding of what the building was about; so they were able to communicate that to me, too. ”

An understanding of what the building was about...when describing the Mishkan...Our Architect did not remain on Mount Sinai, but journeyed with us, traveling as a cloud by day and fire by night. And, in directing the building of Mishkan, יהוה has a purpose for each element...What is my sacred space as an individual?...our sacred space as community? How are the boundaries woven to indicate this holy space? Am I, are we, flexible? Am I loyal to my own vision being woven into and with the visions of others? Am I able to gather these fabrics to move wherever I go....to create a sacred space with whomever I am with and to bond with the Holy Bonding? And what part is the role of Creator/Torah/Israel?

As a weaver embarking on a creative project, my intention is to dedicate my heart to openness and to honor my abilities. I focus on discernment rather than judgment. Is there an egalitarian welcome in the Mishkan (in the artistic creation on the loom)? How does one express and honor the motif of the heart, the soul, utilizing gifts of the mind and the spirit? While I may not be consciously cognizant of these queries at the initiation of a tapestry (or even a utilitarian piece), practicing mindful awareness offers a more relaxed and joyful experience. Connections and responses are a breathing dialog. A softening of the heart helps. Allowing for changes through collaboration and an honoring of an internal personal view coalesce divergent aspects so that the sum of the whole is greater than the parts. And the individual parts seem to come together in the celebration. This is especially apparent in the sharing of an exhibit, when the dialog with others shapes the work into new insight; and oftentimes, serves as the springboard for the next project. I weave stories, dreams, insights... I weave inspirations, supporting the healing and potentiality of others....

For me, as a weaver, art is more of a way of living, a “light-ness of be-ing” than a defined noun of “profession.” Being a Jew is a way of living which repairs and gives light to the world. Through the tapestry of study, converging ideas and commitment of fidelity to Covenant (while maintaining a healthy respect of what that means for other Jews), it seems to me, that we share the treasures of our wealth with all of humanity.

In conclusion, this singularity of thread is, as in a quote by Marc Chagall, this: “In our life there is a single color, as on an artist’s pallet, which provides the meaning of life and art. It is the color of love.”

~Aneesha Parrone





Community Seder 2016

By Diane Firestone

Wow!! What a turnout. We had 105 people attend Seder this year. That's the largest number I remember. It was a wonderful evening. Rabbi Moskowitz led us in prayer, song and story. We had a new caterer, Bay Window. The food was excellent. Thank you, Sarah Levison, for taking care of this part of the Seder. Thanks to a grant from National Jewish Outreach Program (NJOP) we were able to expand our menu and still keep the cost down. NJOP's grant also allowed us to purchase new haggadot and have a sitter for our youngest attendees. NJOP is the same group that brings us Shabbat Across America every year.

We had a special area for the older children with many activities. Thank you, Jesse Kallweit, for arranging this and watching over the activities.

The Seder theme was helping animals and nature. Alison Gallensky talked about Rocky Mountain Wild and I talked about the Wild Animal Sanctuary in Keenesburg, CO. In keeping with the theme, we had only compostable dinnerware. After composting just about everything, we had less than 1 actual trash bag to take out. All the rest was taken to Lafayette and Longmont for composting. We plan to continue composting at future CBT events.

Thank you to Stefan Brodsky, who took many photos of the Seder.

Mark your calendars for next year. The community Seder will be Saturday, April 15, 2017.





Cooking Corner

Israeli Salad with a twist

Ingredients

Because vegetables vary, try to use the same quantities of tomatoes to cucumbers

3-4 Roma tomatoes, seeded and chopped into small pieces

1 Cucumber, chopped into small pieces

1/2 Red Onion, chopped into small pieces

1/4 cup Parsley, chopped

1/4 cup Mint, chopped

1/2 Jalapeno, chopped (optional and add to your tasting)

1/2 of a Lemon, juiced (more if needed)

2 tablespoons Oil (more if needed)

1 1/2 teaspoons Sumac (if you have it)

salt & pepper to taste

Directions

- 1 Seed your tomatoes and then chop them into small diced pieces. Do the same for your cucumber and onion, add your ingredients to a bowl.
- 2 Add your mint, parsley and jalapeno. Add your lemon juice, oil, salt and pepper and sumac (if using). Serve and enjoy!





Religious School Happenings

This school year worked out well with Chance taking over the younger students and those who needed some coaching - and filling in for Roberta while she recovered from a fall. Roberta's class made good progress finishing one book and being introduced to a new book that they will continue with next term. They were familiarized with the current Parashas which usually focus on ethics. Some from this class are ready to move on to Robert's pre Bar/Bat Mitzvah studies.

Two of Robert's students celebrated Bat Mitzvahs during May with a Bar Mitzvah coming up in November. Some of these students have been studying at CBT since pre-school. Diane continued with music - especially working with upcoming B'nai Mitzvah students. We met several new families at children's services during the year. I will keep in contact with those that have children of school age and hope they will be joining us in the new year.

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Personal Appointments may be scheduled on an individual basis
To contribute to the post, please email
amy_gartin@hotmail.com



Birthdays

May

- 2nd**-Nolan Raynes
- 3rd**-Golda Sheets, Melissa Fear & Josh Kingen
- 8th**-Maya Schwartz
- 12th**-Linda Gilmore
- 13th**-Greg Schroeder
- 15th**-Zachary Doleshal
- 16th**-Nia Weiss
- 22nd**-Diane Firestone
- 24th**-Harry Wagner
- 25th**-Emily Schroeder & Leslie Dias
- 27th**-Audrey Hahn

June

- 1st**-Andrew Hakim
- 11th**-Olivia Corn
- 16th**-Halli Rose & Joann Freedman
- 17th**-Howard Handler & Alex Dias
- 25th**-Jessica Rothman
- 26th**-Jim Hendricks
- 29th**-Leah Barclay

Anniversaries

May

- 21st**-Lee & Lori Hakim
- 24th**-Sharie & John Habegger
- 25th**-Todd & Deborah Doleshal

June

- 1st**-Paul Franks & Lynette Lobmeyer
- 3rd**-Alice & Karl Schneider
- 5th**-Stacey & Ron Jessen
- 7th**-Sarah & Hal Levison & Elissa Roselyn & Mike Dias
- 15th**-Linda & Robert Gilmore
- 16th**-Paula & Ray Farkas
- 30th**-Rabbi Anat Moskowitz & Jeffrey Bain

Yahrzeits

May

- 3rd**-Fred Schwartz
- 12th**-Dorothy Shapiro & Jack Hal
- 14th**-Lena Rudolph
- 15th**-Annie Sherman
- 19th**-Amella Sichel
- 23rd**-Arthur Bronstein, Mary Firestone & Raymond Schwartz
- 29th**-Darryl Presley
- ?**-Rose Handler & Sidney Handler

June

- 1st**-Bernice Ackerman
- 2nd**-Loius Neyman
- 5th**-Abraham Firestone



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