



Shabbat Tetzaveh 5777 /March 17, 2017

Dear Shir Tikvah:

First, a note of gratitude: We are still laughing from an exquisitely uproarious Purim Schpiel-Barbara Wiener lead a cast and band over 60 children and adults-who told us the story of Esther, Mordechai, the King, and Haman in a way that was both rooted in Jewish tradition and dripping with contemporary relevance. To their entire team-along with Sara Lahyani, David Raskas, and their cooking team who prepared the feast and Forrest Yesnes and all our STiFTY Youth who ran Sunday's carnival-to everyone who guided us to laughter and joy, we give our thanks.

We make a quick spiritual pivot from Purim to Pesach-the epic story our people's liberation from Egyptian bondage and search for human dignity. Pesach begins Monday, April 10. We do not host a congregational seder at Shir Tikvah. If you are hosting a seder and have room to welcome guests, or if you need a space at a seder, please email Sara and she will do her best to find you a match.

On Pesach, it is the Haggadah that tells the Passover story. There are many Haggadot available. I draw your attention to a new one compiled by American Jewish World Service. It weaves together the Pesach seder rituals with contemporary reading and questions in a way that is captivating, beautiful, and inspiring! Take a look.

And for those who already have a Haggadah you really love, please consider this beautiful supplement from the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.

We are living in a moment of history where the Purim and Pesach stories feel ever more relevant, the questions they raise ever more prescient: How do we use our power for the common good? How do we work with leaders to demand they speak out for human dignity, equality, and justice? How do we confront the Hamans and the Pharaohs in our midst-even in our own hearts-and build a world of empathy, compassion, and love?

I encourage you to explore this new haggadah and take time this Pesach to lift up the questions that are in your heart.

Shabbat Shalom,

Michael