



Beth Israel Bulletin

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL
APRIL EVENTS

PASSOVER SERVICES
ON ZOOM



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FROM THE RABBI

It has now been two years since COVID-19 upended our world. Passover was the first major holiday we had to rethink when we stopped meeting in person. And Passover is once again approaching.

This will be our third Zoom Passover. While circumstances might have allowed us to do an in-person seder, the lead time was too short to organize it. The ritual committee examined idea after idea to make it work, but logistically, we just couldn't. There is, unfortunately, no simple way to do a seder.

Over the last two years, so much has changed. We have learned and adapted, changing our practices throughout the pandemic as we found new and better ways to do things. We've adjusted our use of technology, found new ways to celebrate, refined how we could make hybrid worship work and be meaningful, and created modes of celebrating each of the holidays in a way that felt meaningful. Overall, I am proud of the work we have done and the way we have celebrated holidays over these last two years.

Except for Passover. The Zoom seder idea hasn't felt like a success. The first year, with less than a month to plan, we did a full seder over Zoom, reading the same readings we always did. It was the best we could do, but somehow, it felt very disconnected from the community: it seemed like I was performing the seder

on behalf of the community rather than celebrating it with the community.

Last year, a year into the pandemic, we had learned so much more. Everyone knew how to use Zoom. We understood the limitations and advantages that Zoom brought. We invited everyone to share their favorite seder plate over Zoom, and tell us why it was special to them. This part worked, and felt communal. We then recited kiddush together, and then most people got off of Zoom to do a seder at home, while a few of us remained and did the remainder of seder on Zoom.

This year, we are trying out yet another variant. For those who sign up, you will be able to pick up gift bags from the Temple with the ingredients for a Hillel sandwich, and a Haggadah. This year, I'll invite people to share a favorite kiddush cup over Zoom. We will then do the first 20 or so minutes of seder together, through the Hillel sandwich. After that, we will conclude on our own (unless there are those who want to continue on Zoom with me).

The last two years have been about adaptability. Fortunately, I have always been someone who looks at what we are doing and seeking ways to improve it, or even to just vary it. I have been really pleased with so much of what we have done together over the last couple of years. Passover, however, has remained hard for me.

(Continued to Page 7)

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Schedule of Shabbat Services

Apr. 1, Friday, 6:00 pm Family Service
Tazria (Lev. 12: 1 - 13:59)

Apr. 8, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Service
Metzora (Lev. 14:1 - 15:33)

Apr. 15, Friday, 5:30 pm First Night Passover, no services. Passover Seder on Zoom
PESACH I

Apr. 23, Saturday, 10:00 am Shabbat Morning/Passover Service, Includes Yizkor
PESACH VIII

Apr. 29, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Service
Achrei Mot (Lev. 16:1 - 18:30)



Y A H R Z E I T S

April 1 2022

Ann Kennedy
Bert Copeland
Frances Oberman
George Allen Duskes
Sara Cohen
Harry Liebowitz
Evelyn Miller Siegel

April 8, 2022

Aaron Merkel
Hannelore Weller Cintron
Sara N. Egelson
Joseph Max Feinberg
Rae Zeeman
Solomon J. Schiff
Alfred Achouche
Hilda Gabor
Zvi Gretz
Jack Mark
Dorothy Sondra Futterman
Meta London Merkel
Freda Goldman Livingston
Rose Barsky Roth

April 15, 2022

Harry Berkowitz
Harold Joseph Hutner
Jeanette Kier
Milton Soroka
Isabel Berger Landsberg
Charles Fine
Jesse V. Levy
Leah Bolker
Alice Cohen Krinovitz
Samuel Lipschutz
Frances Benson
Abe Goldman
James Sachs
Frank Hutner
Crandall Clark
Moses Selig



April 23, 2022

Eve Lack
Abraham Markstone
Marion Piafsky
Harvey Taub
Frieda Haas
Otto Haas
Solomon Winkler
Max Morris
Beverlee Kaifetz Finkelstein
Sara Levy Gordon
Maynard Levy
Richard Rome
Gertrude Balkan
Arthur Schwoner

April 29, 2022

Anna Lavine
Linda Braunstein
Dora Cohen
Otto Menkle
Benjamin Smolar
Herbert Cohen
Leland S. Berger
Benjamin Singer
Marion Alpert
Louis Mostovitch

NOTES FROM THE PREZ

Greetings, gentle reader,

I must confess to you that this April column has been very difficult to write. I am feeling the residue of mental fatigue and uncertainty and I ask your indulgence for anything written that may sound a little loose or disconnected.

Mother Nature herself has my senses on overtime. Those of you who write know writing is often done in spurts as the muse guides us. This column is being written during the month of March. Personally, I find March a most challenging month. As I write for April, which brings flowers and spring to mind, the fields and trees around me are covered in snow and the arctic air outside clearly tells me it is still winter. Two days later, I am outside basking in seventy-degree temperatures fanned by balmy breezes and the day declares it is spring. And yes, I am wearing shorts and flipflops. Two more days pass and we are looking at freezing rain in the forecast!

And then there is the world situation. For two years, the COVID pandemic has completely changed our daily routines and lifestyles. Even the experts cannot provide us with any certainty.

While the pandemic was ranging, we watched as our nation's values and democracy were challenged at the highest level. Now in Ukraine, the nightmare of 1939 is rising from history in graphic high-definition, and closer to home, corporate greed has raised the cost of basic necessities to record high levels. We are all standing on shaky ground!

Crisis after crisis produces intense physical and emotional stress. Almost everyone I have encountered in the last two years have spoken about feeling anxious, fearful, grief, uncertainty, anger, depression, despair, sadness, mental dullness and fatigue. People, including myself, are finding it hard to get motivated. Getting going requires a blast energy to get started. It can be a struggle to get out of the house, to get things done and to meet deadlines.

If you are feeling some of these emotions and experiencing sleep difficulties, sadness, irritability, etc., do not be discouraged. You and I are being perfectly human. The fact that we are still here and getting through each

day is a victory over the extreme hurdles we are facing. Be assured, you and I are not the only ones. Also be assured we do not have to face this alone.

We, alone and collectively must be doing something every day to begin and continue our healing process. This emotional and psychological bruising did not happen overnight and it won't be healed overnight.

Many friends and colleagues have shared their healing techniques with me. Some of them include; deep breathing, outdoor activity, meditation, yoga, massage, music, reading and prayer. For myself, I'd like to add; watching chick flicks, (especially regency romances), playing mah jong, baking, and holding the cat. It also helps to NOT watch the news constantly. Gentle reader, what would be on your healing techniques list?

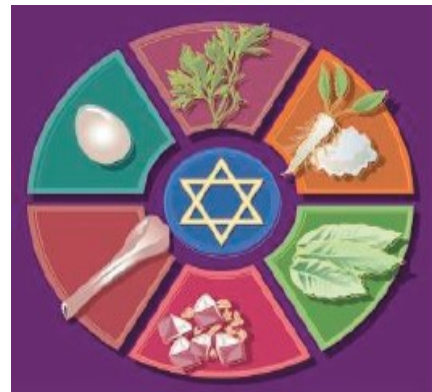
Personal belief here. We are not alone in our struggles. There is a higher power. One Psalm I find particularly helpful: Psalm 121. "I will lift up my eyes to the mountains, from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, the creator of heaven and earth. God will not let your foot give way; your guardian will not slumber."

Of course, a simple psalm or a relaxation technique will not instantly fix everything. Healing takes time. But small doses of healing will keep us afloat until the storm is over. Look for, find and grab your anchor whatever it is. We don't have to finish first, all we need to do is finish whole.

BTW Passover is fast approaching. Who are you inviting to share your Passover feast? Hint: socializing, is a healing technique.

Baruch Ha'Shem,

ElizaBeth



Yenta

It was wonderful to see all of the moms of the Rabin RS helping their kids make hamentashen recently. Rabbi David & Janet Davis came in to help as well. The kids were enthusiastically making many different flavors. The almond filling was a popular favorite.

Gift bags were made for our elderly and shut-ins. It's a very kind and thoughtful gesture that has become a RRS tradition.

Kudos to Miriam Worthington on her successful Family Service format. If you haven't been to one, they are at 6 pm on the first Friday of each month preceding a shortened Adult Service.

Mazel Tov to Max Grafstein on Seton's recent basketball wins! He's been a busy fellow as he was also involved in the Model UN!

Michelle Zelkowitz is happy as Lenny is home for at least a month after helping FEMA with issues following the massive flooding in the state of Washington.

Harvey Hurwitz is recovering at home after outpatient surgery. He has his son Craig and lovely wife Sara tending to him"

Arielle Kaden, granddaughter of Sara & Harvey Hurwitz, has recently begun posting a newsletter. You can read her musings at ARIELLEKADEN.SUBSTACK.COM

Michelle Davis, Ben Stafford and kids welcomed a new fur ball in March. Grandma Janet flew to Denver with puppy Ollie. It's not that they don't have puppies in Colorado, but he sure is a very cute and special one!

Aaron Davis has been promoted to Director of Digital Strategy & Brand Content at OMERS, a global pension investment company.

Sarah Davis has recently been named to the School Board of the St. Louis Park Public School District. It's certainly a good way to keep a finger on the pulse of the district's school/social issues.

The Goldenberg's are enjoying their move to Rhode Island and hopefully will soon have a permanent residence.

Cerise Oberman and Larry Soroka have headed to North Bend, WA for 6-7 wks to ski and spend time near Tova &



Zack.

Ronnie & Alice Marx and Marcy & Jeff Weisberg flew to Arizona to spend time with Carole & Jeanot Caoba. A side trip was made to take in the south rim of the Grand Canyon and then onto Las Vegas. I understand Alice considered the Grand Canyon a big, beautiful hole! We can't wait to hear all of their tales!

Cheryl Kabeli is kvelling over the unretirement of Tom Brady.

Our snowbirds are slowly making their way north. We're glad to have them return home!

Condolences from the Beth Israel Community to Sharon Levine & family on the death of her husband Don. They have been longtime members of our Temple.

Condolences from the Beth Israel Community to Sarah Brown & family on the death of her dad, Mike Matzkin. He and his late wife Bea were members for many years. Fortunately, Sarah had just recently come north to celebrate his 98th birthday and spend some quality time with him.

May their memories be a blessing.

Wishes to all for a pleasant, meaningful seder & Passover.

Don't forget to send your news to office@plattsburghbtbi.org with YENTA in the subject line!

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Sharon Levine:

- Thank you to the Rabbi for the Simplicity and beauty of Donald's Service.

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- In appreciation of Rabbi David, Eva and Cantor Foster for our Meaningful High Holy Day Services.

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Gayle G. Ratner:

- In Memory of my Grandmother Gladys Kalofsky;
- In Memory of my Grandfather Albert Greenfield.

Janet/Jerome Davis:

- In Loving Memory of Gabriel Davis.

Eleanor Berger:

- In Memory of Mike Matzkin.

Cheryl/Sabieli Kabeli and Sophie:

- In Memory of Maurice Kabeli.

Larry/Kate/Leslie Kriff:

- In Memory of Ralph Kriff.

*Thank
you*

In the know:

Looking for some one to organize onegs. Yes, onegs are on again.

Start April 1st - no fooling !

Involves calling members, schedule an oneg and communicating information to secretary.

Can be done at home and on-line.

We have written guidelines for how to do an oneg.

Call ElizaBeth if interested.

518 944-0610.



COMING SOON! AN ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM

A hearty thank you to the 49 members who responded to the Membership Committee's TBI Online Survey. Over 64% of respondents indicated that they would use an online payment system for Community Commitments, Donations, and Special Events!

As such, the Membership Committee recommended that the Board approve the implementation of an online payment option; the Board unanimously concurred with this recommendation at their February meeting.

The new payment option will be fully integrated into our current website, allowing members and non-members alike to make online contributions to the Temple. PayPal has been selected as the payment system since it offers the lowest transaction fees for tax-exempt organizations, such as TBI, and has no subscription fees. You can use a major credit card or you PayPal account, if you have one.

The online option does not preclude payment by check, electronic transfer, etc. for those who prefer to continue their current payment method.

Jeff Weisburgh, Treasurer, Jeremy Frenyea, TBI technical support, Tova Soroka, TBI Webmaster, and Cerise Oberman, Co-Chair, Membership Committee will be working together over the next several months to bring this system online.

We will alert everyone once the system is up and running. If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me at ceriseoberman@gmail.com



FROM THE RABBI (CONTINUED)

The communal seder brings so much of the community together. I miss seeing everyone. I miss the noise of so many people talking in the social hall. I miss wandering between tables and visiting with people. I even miss carrying the lapel mics around for people to do readings.

This year, when the pandemic would have allowed many of us to be willing to gather, it is especially hard to not be able to make it happen logistically. Passover recalls the preparation for departure from Egypt. This year, it feels like we are so close to that point, but not quite there. But with a little bit of luck, we will be able to gather together to celebrate a little later in the spring. Liberation from Egypt is only the beginning of the story. There is more to come, and the story of the Jews teaches that we will endure and celebrate the good times.

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Woolman Rabbinical Trust Fund: Supports a Rabbi as spiritual leader for our community.

Education Funds

Rabin Religious School Trust Fund: Supports the Religious School.

Merkel-London Library Fund: Supports the purchase of books, periodicals and films that support the needs of the congregation and Religious School.

Fanny S. Schiff Trust Fund for Youth Activities: Supports youth programs and activities.

Judge Robert J. Feinberg Memorial Educational Fund: For acquiring books, periodicals, audio-visual equipment, software and the like to aid in the education of the members of the congregation.

Rachel Harrison Camp Fund: Provides scholarship money for children and teens to attend Jewish camps.

The Israel Student Scholarship Fund: Provides supplemental funding for current and former students of RRS to travel to Israel.

Cultural Funds

The Charles E. and Regina L. Slatkin Lecture Fund: Supports programs with Jewish content in the areas of art, literature or music.

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Martin M. Goldman and Family Fund: To provide for the enhancement of Jewish life and worship in Plattsburgh.

Harvey Duchin Jewish Cultural Fund: Cultural programs and/or activities, including music, art, lectures etc., for the benefit of the congregation.

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