

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Friday, April 3*

6:30 pm Erev Shabbat of Song & Story

Saturday, April 4

Kaddish**

7:00 pm Havdalah Live Service with Ben***

Thursday, April 9*

9:00 am First Day of Pesach Service

Friday, April 10*

5:30 pm Tot Shabbat

6:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 11

Kaddish**

7:00 pm Havdalah Live Service with Cantor Eschler***

Tuesday, April 14*

6:30 pm Erev Seventh Day of Pesach Service including Yizkor

Wednesday, April 15*

9:00 am Seventh Day Pesach Service including Yizkor

Friday, April 17*

6:30 pm Spirit of Shabbat

Saturday, April 18

Kaddish**

7:00 pm Havdalah Live Service with Rabbi Weiss***

Friday, April 24*

6:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 25

Kaddish**

7:00 pm Havdalah Live Service with Rabbi Pokras***

* Live Streaming

**Zoom following Torah Study

***On Beth Ami Facebook

MESSAGE FROM

Rabbi Pokras

Why is this year different from all other years? On all other years we gather in close around our tables with family and friends ...

The Passover seder combines all the things we love most: food and wine, storytelling, and home hospitality. Perhaps this is why, of all the Jewish holidays, Pesach is the most observed by American Jews – regardless of their level of affiliation or engagement.

The other Jewish holidays have a lot to offer, but none of them combine food, storytelling and hospitality as powerfully as the seder. Which begs a question:

Why didn't the rabbis give us similar rituals for the other holidays? What is so special

about Pesach?

The answer is "telling:" on Passover we recount our primary defining narrative – the Exodus from Egyptian slavery towards freedom. The seder leverages all five of our senses to remind us who we are, where we have come from, and where we have yet to go. For that reason alone, it deserves special treatment.

However, we are Jews, which means that among other quirks, we look for meaning in the details. Consider, for example, these words which Moses spoke to the Israelites about the future observance of Passover:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

BaBayit

Beth Ami Babayit (at Home)

Temple Beth Ami is far more than the building in we normally interact with one another. we are first and foremost Kehillah kedoshan (a sacred community)

Check the website and check your emails to stay in touch.

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Chadashot

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MESSAGE FROM *Buzz Karpay, President*



The text of the haggadah tells us: "You shall teach your children." The entire haggadah is based on the idea of telling the story of the Exodus to the next generation. The telling doesn't happen just at Temple Beth Ami in religious school or nursery school; it happens at home. Passover insists that we be engaged.

When our children were young, we conducted our seder at home or at family members' homes in a manner that is fairly typical: we each had a copy of the same haggadah, and although there would always be some discussion – or even dissent – about which paragraphs or pages we should read or skip, it was always easy to say something like "Let's continue on page 25," and everyone could turn to that page in their haggadah. We didn't use the same haggadah each year, and sometimes we found supplementary material to include. One year, we decided to make a change. We were at a point where we couldn't agree on which haggadah to use.

We decided that each person at the seder table would use the haggadah of his or her choice. Over the years, we had collected a large selection of different haggagot from every branch of Judaism. We also had some home-made haggadot that guests had brought to us. Although the page numbers don't match up, the order of the seder is the same (more or less). We decided this would be an engaging way to conduct the seder and a way to be sure that everyone was involved. The basic rule of the seder was: If your haggadah has a passage in the section of the service that we're doing that you would like to share, then share it. Sometimes we would read essentially the same material from three or four different sources, each of which

had a slightly different perspective or emphasis than the others. The first year we tried this, we actually had to speed up at the end to finish by midnight.

Our daughters were pleased that we were allowing them to choose their own, favorite haggadah. Over the years, our guests and now our sons-in-law have enjoyed perusing the collection and choosing one. Our seders were a bit chaotic but always interesting and engaging.

This year, even before the pandemic began, it was looking like we would be making another significant change in our observance. With grandchildren ranging in age from 2 to 11 years, we had planned on returning (at least for a while) to using a single haggadah. In addition, even though the family seders would have been at our house, I was not going to be leading the seder. Our middle daughter, who is a rabbi, had accepted the offer to lead. We will still be doing this, but we will be using Facetime or Zoom to connect the family, because we all live in different locations around the country.

I wish each of you a joyous and engaged Pesach. Even though you may be physically separated from your family, I hope that you have the opportunity to participate in some well-established family traditions, and to create some new ones as well. I'd love to hear how you and your family observe Passover! I hope that becoming more engaged at home will lead you to become even more interested in trying something new at Temple Beth Ami. For example, consider attending the second (virtual!) seder at TBA.

COMING

This Month

zoom

Happy Hour**Wednesdays, April 22, 29****5 pm**

Join Debbie Ezrin, Executive Director, and Shelly Gordon, Program & Engagement Director, for a casual 'check in' via Zoom. All are welcome; shoes are optional! See the Home Page of our website for the link.

**Network & Nosh****Friday, April 3****8:30 – 10 am**

Network & Nosh provides an opportunity for Temple folks in business to meet one another, share resources and business cards and strengthen relationships with those who might become – or lead to – new business opportunities. Join Ellen Davis as we chat via ZOOM about working from home as the new normal and how we manage the challenges. See the Home Page of our website for the zoom link.

zoom

Nosh at Noon**Fridays, April 3, 10, 17, 24****12 pm**

Join Debbie Ezrin, Executive Director, and Shelly Gordon, Program & Engagement Director, for a casual 'check in' via Zoom. All are welcome; shoes are optional! See the Home Page of our website for the link.

zoom

Coffee & Conversation Mondays, April 6, 13, 20, 27**10:30 am**

Join Debbie Ezrin, Executive Director, and Shelly Gordon, Program & Engagement Director, for a casual 'check in' via Zoom. All are welcome; shoes are optional! See the Home Page of our website for the link.

**Live & Learn with Rabbi Luxemburg Tuesdays, April 7, 14, 21****10:30 am – 12 pm**

Topic: Rabbis Making Mischief: Unexpected Ideas from the Midrash

Besides using Midrash as a way to explore the deeper meanings of biblical texts, our sages often used Midrash to introduce provocative ideas and points of view. Several such passages will be examined along with the related biblical passages and the historical context out of which these unexpected texts emerged. Lively discussion is expected.

See the Home Page of our website for the zoom link.

**JUNE CHADASHOT
DEADLINE APRIL 25**

COMING This Month



| | | |
|--|---------------------|----------|
| 1st Day Passover Service | Thursday, April 9 | 9 am |
| Family Passover Celebration | Thursday, April 9 | 10:30 am |
| Erev 7th Day Passover Service/Yizkor | Tuesday, April 14 | 6:30 pm |
| 7th Day Passover Service/Yizkor | Wednesday, April 15 | 9 am |

These services will be live streamed.
Family Celebration on Facebook Live



2nd Night Virtual Seder **Thursday, April 9** **6 - 9 pm**

The TBA clergy invite you to a multi-generational, visual seder (most appropriate for elementary school age+). Feel free to share the link with others who would enjoy sharing the 2nd night of Passover with our clergy! See the Home Page of our website for the zoom link.



Broadway Buzz with Steve Friedman **Monday, April 13** **10:30 am – 12 pm**

Topic: TV & Broadway: A Needed Relationship. Don't miss this popular Monday morning program, featuring footage, facts and, always, some live performance. See the Home Page of our website for the zoom link.



LEND A HAND

Temple Beth Ami Community Service Projects

Thank you in advance for your support!

(For information on additional TBA

community service projects, visit
bethami.org/community/social-action/tikkun-olam/)

volunteers for many projects, including to provide groceries to seniors/Holocaust survivors, purchase toiletries for home-bound Meals on Wheels recipients, and sew face masks for JSSA drivers/volunteers and hospice medical staff. Contact nmorton@jssa.org for more information or to volunteer.

- **The Montgomery County Volunteer Center** - has a variety of volunteer opportunities, including activities that you can do from your home computer or telephone.

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

SEE OUR WEBPAGE FOR HOW TO HELP OTHERS

- **Help Manna Food Center Serve Neighbors Affected by the Coronavirus Crisis** - Manna urgently needs cash donations to help it respond to the increasing numbers of neighbors in our area who are facing food insecurity because of the COVID-19 crisis. Local organizations have cancelled numerous food drives that Manna depended on to replenish its food inventory, and in-kind donations from grocery stores have dropped dramatically.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SEE OUR WEBPAGE HOW TO HELP OTHERS

- **TBA's Rise Against Hunger Program, originally scheduled for Sunday, April 26, has been cancelled and will be rescheduled** - Please watch for information about the new date and time. Donations already made will be applied to the new event.
- **Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA)** - JSSA needs



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Debbie Ezrin

Since I arrived in November, I have been focused on strengthening our Administrative Team by replacing three wonderfully dedicated staff members who retired from TBA within weeks of my arrival. In January, Rachel Kessler and Jennifer Smith joined our team, and in March, we welcomed Rachel Hyde.

Our collective goal as an Administrative Team is to help you embrace all that Temple Beth Ami has to offer you and your family, so I thought it may be helpful to re-introduce you to our team and let you know who to contact when you need assistance. This information may be especially helpful during the time our building is closed. Though the building is closed, we remain hard at work to meet your needs.

Esther Abelson, Accountant (est@bethami.org) – Esther can assist you with your dues and tuition payments, flexible spending account information for TBANS families, as well as any other questions about your financial account.

Gail Brodsky, Clergy Assistant (gsb@bethami.org) – Gail can assist you with Oneg and Yahrzeit donations and observances, as well as adding or removing names from our weekly R'fuah and simcha lists. Gail does not work on Mondays.

Joanne Diamond, Senior Accountant (jd1@bethami.org) – Joanne can assist you if you would like to make a donation of stocks or other securities to benefit Temple Beth Ami.

Diane Ferraro, Temple Administrator (idf@bethami.org) – Diane can assist you with your Chaverware account access, B'nai Mitzvah date scheduling, renting space at TBA for your simchas,

scheduling meetings, and building maintenance concerns. Diane does not work on Fridays.

Jill Finci, Administrative Assistant (jaf@bethami.org) – Jill can assist you with all TBANS related needs, including registration, setting up tours, and general school information.

Rachel Hyde, Administrative Assistant (rhyde@bethami.org) – Though normally Rachel would answer our main office line and greet you when you enter the building, she is available now to direct you to the right staff person if you are unsure of who can help you.

Rachel Kessler, Clergy Assistant (rkessler@bethami.org) – Rachel can assist you with B'nai Mitzvah preparation and appointments, baby namings, weddings, and clergy appointments for other needs..

Jennifer Smith, Machane Office Manager (jsmith@bethami.org) – Jennifer can assist you with anything related to religious school from preK-12th grade and our summer camp Kayitz.

As always, the entire staff of TBA are eager to support you and your family as we collectively embrace Judaism, foster connection, and encourage innovation. Please reach out to any of us – including the clergy, Shelly Gordon, Kim Roberts and her Machane team, and Paula Sayag and her TBANS team – to schmooze and learn how you can help enrich our vibrant community!

From my family to yours, I wish you and your loved ones Chag Pesach Sameach!

WOMEN OF TEMPLE BETH AMI

News

Days for Girls

The April Days for Girls meeting has been cancelled. We hope to see you at the May meeting on Sunday, May 17 from 2 - 5 pm at the Temple. For more information, please contact chapter directors Janet Schiller and Rhona Arbit at rockvillemd@daysforgirls.org.

WTBA Book Club

The WTBA Book Club meeting on Tuesday, April 28 will be held as a Zoom meeting from 7:30-9pm. We will be discussing Sons and Soldiers by Bruce Henderson. Sons and Soldiers is a bestselling, nonfiction book that relates the experiences of the young Jewish men who came to the US to escape the Nazis. These men, who became known as "The Ritchie Boys", joined the US army, trained in Maryland, and returned to Europe to fight Hitler.

We hope to be able to welcome special guest, Bernie Lubran, who will further enrich our conversation about the Ritchie Boys and give us some insight from his father's perspective as a Ritchie Boy. Book Club members will receive an invitation to the Zoom meeting. Please contact Terry Steinberg at steinberg_4@comcast.net if you would like to be added to the list.

Book and Author Event

If the Temple is open and if our guest speaker is able to travel from Israel to the US, we invite you to join us on Sunday, May 3 from 4:00-5:30 pm for a Book and Author

event, co-sponsored by Israel Matters, TBA's Brotherhood, and WTBA. Our featured author is Debbie Zimelman. Debbie will discuss her photo book, Women on the Front Lines - Inside the Combat Units of the Israeli Army. The book depicts the lives of female soldiers of the Israeli Army. Debbie is a photographer, born in the US, who has been living in Israel for 30 years. Her photos have been exhibited internationally and have appeared in publications such as O, The Oprah Magazine, Canada's National Post, The Daily Telegraph, and The Daily Standard (London). Light refreshments will be provided, and books will be available for purchase and signing. This event is open to the community. Please check the temple website and emails for up-to-date information about this event.

Manna Food Center

There was a great turnout for January's food sorting at Manna Food Center. Thank you to the many volunteers: Ruth Shevach, Abby Ford, Beth Jolles, Daniel Fleischer, Stephanie Fleischer, Abby, Tyler, Allison and Josh Siegel, Ellen Harrison, Scott Harrison, Eric Leibowitz, Izzy Leibowitz, Elizabeth Joseloff, and Adam Levy. As always, a huge thank you to Rhonda Gaynor for organizing the group! The Manna Food Center greatly appreciates our assistance!

Mah Jongg Tournament

The semi-annual Mah Jongg tournament, WTBA's largest fundraiser of the year, was held on the Sunday of Presidents' Day weekend. With over 80 people in atten-

dance, everyone had a great time playing, eating, and winning the many door prizes and cash prizes at stake. Stay tuned for more information about the next tournament on August 30! Thanks to all who participated and a special thanks to the wonderful volunteers who made the day go so smoothly. Also, a huge thank you to Rachel Maryn for organizing the tournament!

Ongoing Activities



Kippot for B'nai Mitzvah, and Brides and Grooms are available at discount prices through WTBA. View styles at www.kippah.com and contact

Eve Lader at 301-938-0200 or evelader@gmail.com to place an order.

WTBA presents a **wedding gift** of the beautiful book **On the Doorposts of Your House: Prayers and Ceremonies for the Jewish Home** to TBA newlyweds. Please email Barbara Ranhand at Barbara.ranhand@verizon.net with information about any Temple families who are planning a wedding.

If you have any new ideas for activities or would like to help plan an event, we'd love to hear from you! We can be reached at womenoftemplebethami@gmail.com.

Elizabeth Joseloff

WTBA Chadashot article editor
ejoseloff@gmail.com

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

*Paula Sayag,
Director*



Acts of Loving Kindness

This April is certainly not adhering to the schedule we planned. We were looking forward to lots of Passover explorations and celebrations in school. Life has certainly surprised us, and we are all learning a lot about flexibility and creativity. As our virtual outreach continues fervently, TBANS teachers will be sharing the story, the morals, and the rituals of Passover in myriad ways with their classes. Please watch your class Facebook Groups, Temple website and Facebook Pages, and in-boxes for plentiful family friendly holiday resources.

Of all the themes that can be pulled from the Passover story, one most appropriate for early childhood is the idea that we should treat others with kindness and respect and be helpful (like Moses and Myriam), and we should not be selfish, demanding, or mean (like Pharaoh and the slave masters). As we retell the Exodus Story, we consider the importance of individual acts of loving kindness and their power to heal our world.

This month, I am sharing with you ways that our teachers have promoted kindness among our children in school, and ways that you may continue the effort at home.

On Dalet Special Friends' Day in February, our 4-5 year olds came to school with a "special friend" (grandparent,

aunt, neighbor) to learn about and perform acts of Gemilut Hassidim (Loving Kindness). They made bookmarks and donated books to South Lake Elementary. They painted pet rocks and packed snack bags for adult students in Citizenship and English Classes with Montgomery County Outreach. They heard a wonderful, inspiring book, It's a...It's a...It's a Mitzvah by Liz Suneby and Diane Heiman.

What mitzvah can your children do during this time? In one neighborhood, children are creating artwork to display in front windows for others to see as they walk down the street. It's a strolling art gallery, bringing joy and smiles to all.

Keshatot children spent this school year tracking their acts of loving kindness by adding a pom pom to their Kindness Jar each time they performed such a mitzvah. The first time they filled the jar, they celebrated by inviting their Shabbat Buddies (Rainbow Fish class) to a dance and cupcake party!

At least one TBANS family started a Kindness Jar at home. Can that help engender positive sibling interactions?

Megallim teachers place great emphasis on mastering social skills to become good friends and teammates. One focus is encouraging children to help peers. In school, children are often seen zipping each other's jackets, opening other's

lunch food containers, or generously sharing art materials.

One TBANS teacher is posting daily chores for children. Can your children help your home run a little more smoothly during this unusual time?

Teddy Bears often hear their teachers say, "That's such a nice friendship moment." 2-3 year olds come to understand the expectation of kindness and how they can make a difference in someone's day, whether it be holding their hand to walk down the hall, picking up a toy they dropped, or giving them a turn to play a game.

What "Friendship Moments" can you recognize at home? Positive reinforcement goes a long way!

In addition, our teachers want to suggest the books below which explore the power of kindness. Luckily, even with today's restrictions, you can still order books online. Perhaps our young children will not only learn to practice random acts of kindness, but perhaps they will influence a future culture that is kinder to all!

Jax Stief, Bet Teacher, recommends:
Cordelia by Michelle Nelson-Schmidt
I'm Not Just a Scribble by Diane Alber

Chris Mullett, Gimel Teacher, recommends:
Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes
Horton Hears a Who by Dr. Seuss

SIMCHAS

Mazel Tov to...

Bennett Lavine, Henry Leventhal, Jake Dorfman, Reece Balamaci, Ryan Schwartzman, Mitchell Golub, Evan Burgess and Jared Edwards on each becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Joanne Diamond and Ed Feinstein on the marriage of their son, **Ethan, to Claire Norris**

Katie, Judd, Brandon, Chase and Ryan Goldberg on the birth of their daughter and sister, **Hailey Madison Goldberg**

Meri and Don Picard on the birth of their granddaughter, **Hailey Madison Goldberg**

Kim, Jake and Natalie Emerson on the birth of their daughter and sister, **Charlotte Mia Emerson**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Karen Becker and her son Julian

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Shabbat Hospitality Committee
Challah Club
Hamantaschen Brigade

TBANS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Winter Candle by Jeron Ashford

Irwin Slonin, Dalet Teacher, recommends:

I Walk with Vanessa by Kerascoet

Leonardo, the Terrible Monster by Mo Willems

Words Are Not for Hurting by Elizabeth Verdick

Naomi Rubenstein, TBANS Social Skills Specialist, recommends:

Amos and Boris by William Steig

The Gift of Nothing by Patrick McDonnell



2020 WTBA MAH JONGG TOURNAMENT

COMMITTEE
News

While it is difficult to begin to understand the long-term impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on our lives, **Community of Action** members still wish to report on the following areas of its work, prior to and amid this crisis: 1) South Lake Elementary School in Gaithersburg, 2) the achievement gap in Montgomery County Public Schools, 3) state funding for the Kirwan Commission's Blueprint for Maryland's Future, and 4) civic engagement.

SOUTH LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Temple support for South Lake afterschool programming continued until the closing of all Maryland public schools on March 13, 2020. Concluding its third year abruptly the day before, Thursday, March 12, the afterschool art club recorded a record number of participants in its Winter/Spring session, bringing creative art programming to over 35 South Lake students in grades 3, 4, and 5. Temple participants included Sue Fox, Linda Blumenreich, Gail Kaplan-Wassell, Susan Spicer, Arlynn Joffe, Lynn Karpay, Susan Stern, and Pat Kaufmann, and non-Temple member Marie-Claire Braun. As a follow up, all used and surplus art supplies were distributed to art club members as a way of helping these students continue their creativity at home.

With the closing of school, the chess club supported by Temple members Jodi and Andy Schwartz, and son Michael, also ended. In its second year, the club enrolled 9 South Lake students.

Until the early adjournment of the state legislature, individual members also continued to advocate for adequate school construction funding at the county and state level, which would affect South Lake's projected new building to be completed in 2023. Of course, no one knows the ultimate economic impact current business closures will have on state and county budgets, but both Governor Hogan and County Executive Elrich have made education a priority.

During this crisis the school, which records 85% of families qualifying for FARMS, faces many challenges; most noticeably that of food insecurity. If you are interested in helping South Lake families and programming, contact either Sue Fox (foxdsgc@aol.com) or Susan Stern (sssterndragon@comcast.net)

ACHIEVEMENT GAP: Learning more about the underlying reasons for the persistent achievement gap in Montgomery County Public Schools has been another area of exploration for

the Community of Action. Prior to the closing of all Maryland public schools, the Black and Brown Coalition for Educational Equity and Excellence -- a joint effort of the NAACP and Identity, a group serving Latino youth in the County -- shared with members data driven research completed by the Educational Trust to advocate for changes in the placement of novice teachers and administrators in the county's schools.

KIRWAN COMMISSION: A priority on the agenda of the Maryland state legislature in Annapolis was the fate of the Kirwan Commission's Blueprint for Maryland's Future which offers a bold vision for the future of Maryland's public education. Prior to the legislature's emergency adjournment and following a rally by educators in Annapolis on President's Day, the legislation passed. The five pillars of the report include the following: 1) Early childhood education; 2) Teacher professionalism; 3) Student preparation for careers and college; 4) At risk students and 5) Greater accountability.

The Blueprint requires significant public investment and because of the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, certain provisions were added to the legislation to ensure it is sustainable financially for the state.

For more information about the Community of Action's advocacy work contact Susan Stern (sssterndragon@comcast.net) or Debbie Jacobs (debrajacobs@comcast.net).

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: The final efforts of the Community of Action have been in terms of Civic Engagement. The group intends to sponsor on-site voter registration at critical locations especially to attract and register younger voters prior to the Presidential Election in November. These include local public high schools and Montgomery Community College. For information, contact Sue Wohl (swohl@comcast.net)

A Reminder: MARYLAND'S PRIMARY HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FROM TUESDAY, APRIL 28 TO TUESDAY, JUNE 3

We are providing the information below even as there is discussion going on that all voting in Maryland's June Primary may be by mail.

Voting by mail: Any registered voter who wants to vote by mail may now request an application for the Presidential Primary Election.

MACHANE TBA
Kim Roberts,
Director



**Calendar, program and event information
for all grades (PreK-12):**

www.bethami.org/education/machane

**Be our friend on Facebook for photos and news:
"MachaneTBA"**



Hey (5th gr.)-Studying
Friday night prayers



Cooking Kehillah



L'Mata—"Leaving a Legacy" program & TuB'shevat



TBAHigh—
NAMI/National Alliance on Mental Illness
"Sources of Strength" program



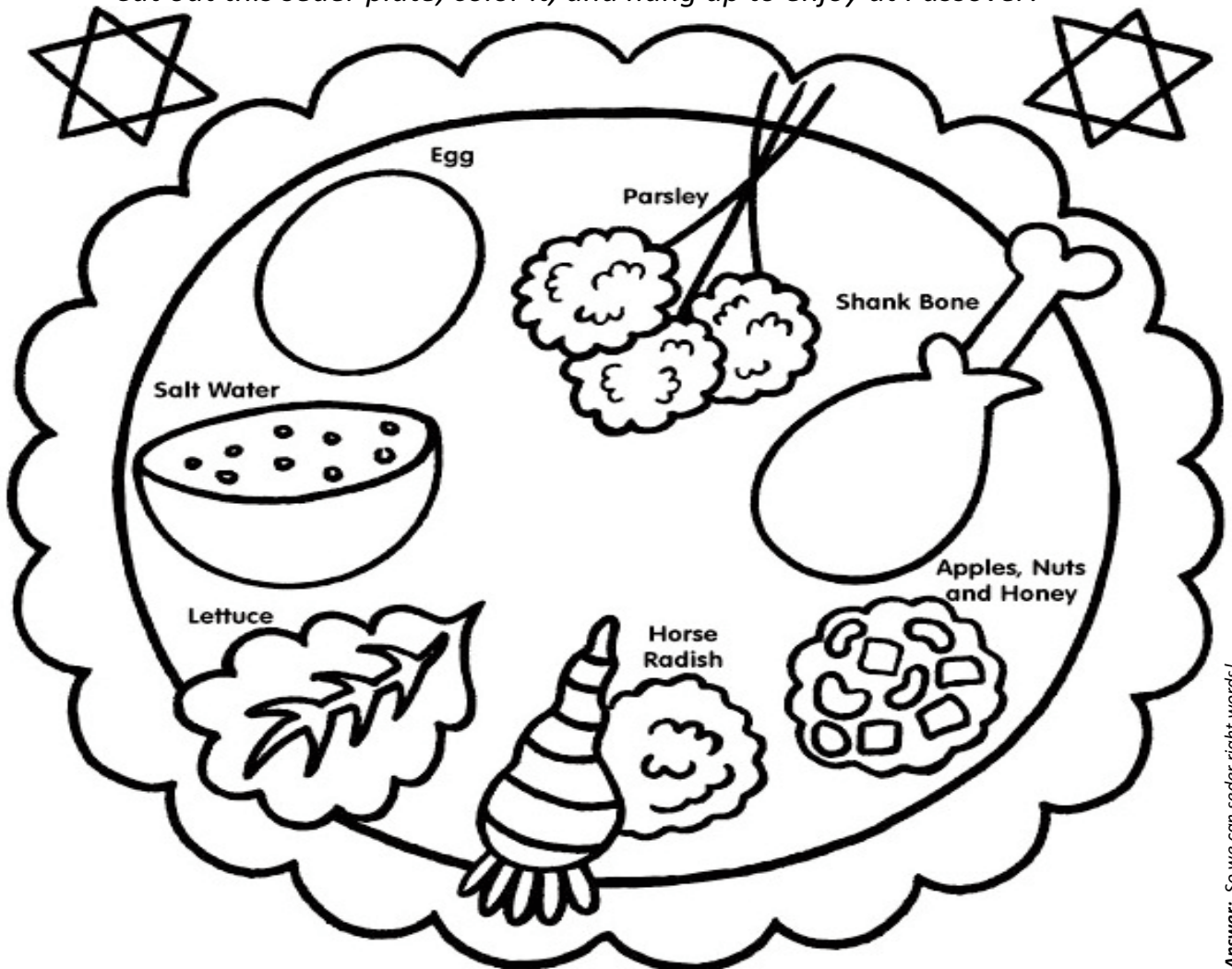
KIDS CORNER

Passover begins
at sundown
on
Weds, April 8!



JOKE:
Why do we use
an Haggadah
at Passover?

Cut out this seder plate, color it, and hang up to enjoy at Passover!



Answer: So we can seder right words!

Congratulations to Yael Smith (Alef/1st Grade), winner from the February Kids Corner challenge! Yael shared that **Tikkun Olam** means kindness and repairing the world. She won a \$10 gift card!

There's no challenge this month but check back next month!

PHOTO REVIEW

Big Challah Bake



PHOTO REVIEW

Shabbat Across Beth Ami



Shabbat @ The Asman's



Shabbat @ The Sambur's



Shabbat @ The Savel's



Shabbat @ The Silverman's



Shabbat @ The Sturman's

RABBI CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“You shall observe this as an institution for all time, for you and for your descendants. And when you enter the land that the Eternal will give you, as God has promised, you shall observe this rite. And when your children ask you, ‘What do you mean by this rite?’ you shall say, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the Eternal, because God passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when God smote the Egyptians, but saved our houses.’” [Ex. 12:24-27]

This passage is all about l’Dor vaDor – transmitting our tradition through the generations. Moses emphasizes the concept of l’Dor vaDor multiple times throughout the Exodus story. It is no surprise, then, that education became a core value of Torah and therefore also Judaism. What makes this particular passage different is not what Moses said, but when he said it. At God’s command, Moses instructed us to teach our children about the Exodus while we were still in Egypt!

Why would Moses tell us to teach future generations during our most frenetic preparations before the final and most horrible plague arrived?

I have long thought that it was to reassure the Israelites that, on the darkest night of their lives, they had a future. However, over time I have come to understand that Moses was not just speaking to them, but to us. Our laws, values, and traditions are not just about the past, they are about the future. So in each generation, we are instructed to teach our children that we were slaves in Egypt, and that God redeemed us from servitude with awesome wonders and a mighty outstretched hand. We teach our children that no matter what the rest of the world may say, human dignity and freedom are sacred gifts to treasure and protect. We teach our children not to accept the world as it is, but to work towards creating the world as it should be. We teach our children that there is a higher purpose and a deeper meaning to our lives. We teach our children, l’Dor vaDor, so that they will be inspired to act and achieve. We teach our children so that they will teach their children.

Why is this year different from all other years? This year we all feel our oppression, not by Pharaoh but by the virus. This year

we all pray for a different kind of redemption, for a life without the disease and quarantine and fear and uncertainty. This year we recognize that we are all children, on the receiving end of the generations who have transmitted our story to us - a story of resilience, of strength, and of hope.

We will celebrate Passover this year, just as our forebears did in Egypt, while still awaiting an end to the plague. Well, not exactly as they did. We will connect digitally, with video and with sound. Our tables will stretch across miles and miles as we share and celebrate together even while we remain physically separate. In the midst of our pain, I hope that we will also find some joy and especially some meaning.

As we gather around our tables this Pesach, I invite us to share how we are bringing l’Dor vaDor (the transmission of our tradition in our new generation) to life. Try going around the table and asking everyone to share their answers to any or all of the following questions:

1. Why (for what purpose) do I think God brought us out of Egypt?
2. How has that purpose played out in history?
3. What is my part in all of this? How am I doing?
4. What is the single most important Jewish value I want to pass on to the next generation?

We won’t all agree, that’s for sure, but as we share our ideas, we may discover or rediscover something deeply meaningful about ourselves, our place in history, and our hopes for the future. If you would like, I invite you to share your answers on our Facebook page. We would love to celebrate your answers and enable each of us to learn from one another!

Warm Wishes for a zissen Pesach, a sweet and meaningful Passover,

Rabbi Gary Pokras

WE GRATEFULLY *Acknowledge*

COMMUNITY IN ACTION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

There are four ways:

1. Text the letters VBM to 77788
2. Go to 777vote.org and select Vote by Mail. Follow instructions to complete the application which may be mailed, faxed (240-777-8560) or emailed to the Board of Elections at absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov
3. Go to <https://voterservices.elections.marylandgov/OnlineVoterRegistration> (You will need your driver's license information.)
4. You may also apply in person at the Board of Election Office, 18783 N. Frederick Avenue, Suite 210, in Gaithersburg.

A contribution to a Temple fund is a meaningful way to support the Temple community while honoring a birthday, recuperation, wedding, graduation, birth or any special occasion. Donations may also be made in memory of a loved one. For a minimum \$10 donation, an acknowledgment will be sent to the person you wish to honor or the family of the deceased. If you have any questions about existing funds or wish to establish a fund, please call Debbie Ezrin, Executive Director, at 301.340.6818.

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of:

THOMAS MILLER'S naming by Jennifer Miller, Robert Winick and Marjorie Winick

In memory of:

LIESE FISHER by Diane Castiglione

FAMILY EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING FUND

In memory of:

HELEN KAMEROW by Elayne Flax

LIBRARY FUND

In memory of:

SARA NEWMAN BERTRAND by Martin and Cheryl Frank

LIVE & LEARN FUND IMO SALLY B. KERA

In memory of:

ANITA BERNS by Loretta Feldman

MACHANE TBA (RELIGIOUS EDUCATION) SCHOLARSHIP FUND IMO BUD LEVIN

In memory of:

SARA NEWMAN BERTRAND by James and Leslie Weightman

MACHANE TBA (RELIGIOUS EDUCATION) FUND IMO JUDY TREBY

In memory of:

SARA NEWMAN BERTRAND by Rachel and Corey Anolik

SARA NEWMAN BERTRAND by Edythe and Darryl Runett

MUSIC EQUIPMENT FUND

In memory of:

ABRAHAM DAVID GLASS by Elizabeth and Thomas Loggia

*When someone you love becomes a memory,
the memory becomes a treasure.*



Take control of your destiny with expert guidance
at the Garden of Remembrance. The gift of pre-planning
will give you and your family peace of mind.

Call Debbie Ezrin at Temple Beth Ami, 301.340.6818, Ext. 226,
or visit www.gardenofremembrance.org.



Garden of Remembrance

GAN ZIKARON MEMORIAL PARK

THE WASHINGTON AREA'S ONLY NON-PROFIT,
MULTI-CONGREGATION JEWISH CEMETERY, OFFERING 21 YEARS
OF CARING SERVICE AND DEDICATED SUPPORT



WE GRATEFULLY *Acknowledge*

HELEN KAMEROW by Sue Potechin and Mark Kamins

In Honor of:

BURT FELDMAN from Jeanne and David Kahn

ONEG FUND

In Honor of:

Rachel and Jordan Dorfman in honor of their son, JAKE'S becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Michele and Adam Schwartzman in honor of RYAN becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Suzy Balamaci in honor of REECE becoming a Bar Mitzvah

In Memory of:

Madeline and Alan Weinstock in memory of PHYLLIS ARON and SOL OIDICK

Suzanne and David Fialkoff in memory of ANNETTE FIALKOFF

Phyllis and Joel Polster in memory of JACK POLSTER, BERTHA (BERTIE) POLSTER and ELLA PERTZON FRUIT

Pauline Walstein in memory of SARAH SCHNEIDER

Sherry and Giovanni Nason in memory of MERIAM G. SHAPIRO and ANNIE GILDENHORN
Stephanie and Robert Oshinsky in memory of JEFFREY EDINBURG

Tammy and Steven Truland in memory of DANIEL THURSZ

Monya and David Cohen in memory of RUTH FAGAN COHEN

Angela and Walter Harris in memory of EDWARD HARRIS

Lucy and Larry Cohen, Todd, Baht, Ari and Ethan Cohen in memory of PHYLLIS FINESHRIER

Shevitz and Roffman families in memory of LAWRENCE EMIL ROFFMAN

Lisa and Geoffrey Fuller in memory of ARTHUR RUBINSTEIN

The Korth Family in memory of JACK STONE
Michael Wolly in memory of JILL LEDERMAN
WOLLY and RYAN SASHA WOLLY

Helen Salzberg in memory of NATHAN GINSBERG, VICTOR and MARY SALZBERG
Susan and Steven Lapidus in memory of FRANK LAPIDUS and RACHEL BERMAN
Rachel and Ben Azoff in memory of ELLIOT AZOFF
Cheryl, Mike, Rachel and Melissa Herman in memory of WILLIAM KENNETH HERMAN
Barbara and Steven Feldman in memory of LILLIAN RICHARDS

Susan and Ed Dosik and Lois and Roger Rothman in memory of STANLEY DOSIK
Elinor and Ed Sondik in memory of LEONA SONDIK

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Charlotte Zuckman in memory of SYLVIA SNYDER
Glenna and Donald Frost in memory of ELSIE SODY

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Betty Lichtenstein, and Judy and Mitchell

Glassman in memory of HAROLD LICHTENSTEIN
Lisa and Stephen Paul in memory of MINDELL BRICKEN

Geneene and Benjamin Sossa in memory of FRED FISHER

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Bernice and William Samuels in memory of NATHAN L. SAMUELS

Emily and Irv Kesser in memory of HILDA R. LEWIN

Jodi, Rob, Darren and Jeremy Shapiro in memory of ADELE SHAPIRO

Shari Ploshnick and the Asai Family in memory of JEFF PLOSHNICK

Lisa and Stephen Paul in memory of SYLMAN I. EUZENT

PRIMARY SEDER FUND IMO JILL WOLLY

In memory of:

JILL WOLLY by Peter Wolly

RABBIS' DISCRETIONARY FUND – RABBI JACK LUXEMBURG

In memory of:

HELEN KAMEROW by Susan Novinsky
LIESE FISHER by Diane Castiglone

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND – RABBI GARY POKRAS

In memory of:

LIESE FISHER by Diane Castiglone

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND – RABBI BAHT WEISS

In memory of:

DAVID by Marc Seigel

In Honor of:

HENRY LEVENTHAL becoming a Bar Mitzvah by the Leventhal Family

BRANDON LUXENBURG becoming a Bar Mitzvah by the Luxemburg Family

THOMAS MILLER'S naming by Jennifer Miller, Robert Winick and Marjorie Winick

SHOFAR FUND BY THE ALTER

FAMILY

In honor of:

Meri and Don Picard's Granddaughter,
HAILEY by Michael and Lisa Firestone

In memory of:

RENEE WIENER by Michael and Lisa
Firestone

SUSTAINING (GENERAL) ENDOWMENT FUND

In honor of:

CONGRESSMAN ADAM SCHIFF by Sandi
Popowitz

In memory of:

HELEN KAMEROW by Dorothy Welan, Lois and
Seymour Fishman, Buzz and Lynn Karpay,
Michael Wolly and Cathy Friedman, Sara and
Stephen Kraskin
SARA NEWMAN BERTRAND by Rachel and
Corey Anolik
LIESE FISCHER by Bernard Lubran

TBANS (EARLY CHILDHOOD) FUND

In memory of:

HELENE IRMA SWIRSKY mother of Amy
Wollins by Marilyn Lipowsky

In honor of:

STEVE AND ELLEN WEINSTEIN'S 50th anniversary by Anne and Stewart Levy

TIKKUN OLAM (COMMUNITY SERVICE) FUND

In memory of

SARA NEWMAN BERTRAND by Sherri and Jim
Lieberman

ANITA BERNS by Sherri and Jim Lieberman

WISH LIST FUND

In memory of:

HELEN KAMEROW by Donald and Marcia
Kaplan

WTBA

In memory of:

SARA NEWMAN BERTRAND by Loretta
Feldman

ANITA BERNS by Edythe and Darryl Runett

In honor of:

FLORA FELDMAN by Jeanne and David Kahn

** AS OF FEBRUARY 25

*"May the memory of
these Righteous
be for a blessing"*

We mourn the recent death of:

Helen Kamerow
wife of Norman Kamerow
mother of Susan Meyers
grandmother of Seth Meyers

Anita Berns

Rheta Kruger
aunt of Evan Krichevsky

Jim Osterman
uncle of Brooke Pitt

Waldy Quinones
brother of Ana Quinones

Paul Michaelson
uncle of Jessica Rogers

Sara Newman Bertrand
sister of Gail Gorenstein

Eleanor "Ellie" Frishman
grandmother of Noah and
Jacob Kaplan-Davis

SHARE WITH US...

We want to know. Please let us know of any significant life cycle event in your family (or the family of a member friend or neighbor), such as a birth, engagement, wedding, illness or death so we can be in touch. Please contact Gail Brodsky, Clergy Assistant, at 301-340-6818 or gsb@bethami.org

ONGOING *Information*

Is Your Email Address Current? Are You on Chaverweb? Are You Connected?

If you are not yet connected to the Chaverweb system, it may be because we do not have an up-to-date email address. Please contact Diane Ferraro at idf@bethami.org if you did not get the emailed invitation, and she will help you connect. Chaverweb will enable you to update your personal profile, view the on line membership directory, review your account, register for school, programs and enter Yahrzeit information, etc.

If you are already in Chaverweb, but FORGOT YOUR PASSWORD, please DO NOT SIGN IN AS A GUEST; simply click on "forgot your password" and you will receive a new one by email.

You'll want to STAY CONNECTED.

CELEBRATING? Remember MAZON

Our Congregation is a MAZON congregation which means that we contribute 3% of every event in which food is served to MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger (also \$3 of every Oneg contribution). We ask every member of the congregation to do the same.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH...contributing to Mazon brings food and help to the hungry, while it gives your child the opportunity to begin his/her Jewish adult life with a public act of Tzedakah.

WEDDING...traditionally it is the obligation of the bride and groom to feed the hungry and help the poor. By contributing 3% of the cost of your wedding celebration to MAZON, you can continue these Jewish traditions.

JSSA Liaison is Here for You

Through our special relationship with JSSA, TBA members are able to receive free and confidential consultation on family and mental health issues including parenting children of all ages and aging parents. Roberta Drucker is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and also earned a BA in Psychology, and Early Childhood, Elementary and Special Education. Her specialized training and experience include the treatment of anxiety, OCD, and other mood issues, ADHD, learning disabilities, families with special needs, parenting, couples and family therapy, aging and bereavement, and intergenerational family therapy. During her tenure as Director of JSSA's Resettlement Program, she provided services to families, and consultation to staff in a variety of settings, including Jewish Day Schools, public schools, pre-schools, and religious schools. Please contact Roberta at rdrucker@jssa.org or 301-610-8369 for free confidential consultation.

GREAT NEWS!!! YOU CAN SHOP AT AMAZON AND SUPPORT TEMPLE BETH AMI AT THE SAME TIME!

Do you shop on the Amazon.com website? Do you know that if you enter the Amazon website from a link on the Temple Beth Ami website, TBA will earn 5% of your purchase price for every purchase you make? It is very easy and you will be helping TBA.

Just imagine, you can "shop 'til you drop" without leaving home and put some badly needed cash in TBA coffers. GO TO IT!

Box Tops for Education

A major change has been announced for the way Box Tops for Education (BTE) coupons are processed and dollars credited to schools. No more clipping small coupons and sending them to schools to consolidate and forward to a central processing site! Paper is so 20th Century. Electronics are 21st Century!

The new process will involve having each shopper register online to donate to a school. Then, when a participating product is bought, the consumer uses a smartphone app to scan the store's sales receipt. If all works correctly, the app will credit all the participating products that were bought, at 10 cents each, to the school. Very cost-effective. And no hand-counting coupons and shipping them to a central facility where they are recounted and a check issued to the school.

The new system does require consumers to own a smartphone, pre-register, and remember to scan sales receipts.

This summer, manufacturers started converting to the smartphone coupon. BTE labels now in consumer pantries or store inventory will still be honored if presented before the expiration date, which is printed on the coupon. So, until the day when no coupons are available, we will still have a collection box for those little pink labels in the Temple lobby.

Questions? Call Bernard Silverstein at 301-598-5283.

OUR DIRECTORY IS ON-LINE

The Temple directory is on line through Chaver-web. Please remember that you can go into your profile and update it. If you've never looked at it, please take a minute to see what's there. The directory is available to Temple members only.

ARE YOUR AWAY? HAVE YOU MOVED? HAVE YOU RESIGNED?

Please let the office know of any change of address, even if it is just for a month or two, or membership status. It is very costly for the Temple when the newsletters are returned, when we pay postage to mail letters that never arrive (only first class mail is forwarded), or when we send materials to people who no longer live in the area and/or are no longer members. Please help us save natural resources (trees) and the Temple's financial resources. Thank you

BOOKING A HOTEL?

If you are booking the Hilton Garden Inn or Homewood Suites on Shady Grove Road for your guests, tell them you are members of TBA and the Temple will receive a rebate.

Check out our mobile friendly website. www.bethami.org

Washington Jewish Week will not print your Bar/Bat Mitzvah announcement and photo for free. The following is the link to submit your announcement and photos:
<https://washingtonjewishweek.com/submit-your-celebration/>

WELCOME TO TEMPLE BETH AMI!

Our core purpose:

We are dedicated to creating a community that embraces the meaning, inspiration, and ideals found in Reform Judaism.

We foster connection with our personal spirituality, each other, and our larger community.

We encourage innovation that honors our Jewish heritage, is attentive to our present experience and generates our common future.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TEMPLE BETH AMI Chadashot

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| | |
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How Did the Passover Seder Originate?

In the book of Exodus, the Israelites are instructed to observe the anniversary each year of their escape from Egypt. All Jews were supposed to slaughter a lamb, eat it with matzoh and maror, and

smear some of its blood on their doorposts; this ritual was performed around the time of the Second Temple, about the sixth century BCE. As one of the pilgrimage holidays, Pesach was a time that Jews from around the countryside came to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices and dine together.

However, this celebration was much different from the modern seder and its Haggadah. The first references to a seder and Haggadah are found in the Mishnah, where there is a mention of Rabbi Gamaliel exhorting Jews to be certain to explain the pascal lamb, matzah and maror at the seder. He linked each term to biblical verses. Later scholars have noted the seder's parallels to the Hellenistic banquet, in which many foods and cups of wine are consumed while reclining on cushions. However, even if the Jews took the form of a Greek symposium, they turned the celebration into one that had the primary purpose of educating.

Embrace Judaism

Foster Connection

Encourage Innovation