

THETABLE

Congregation Har Shalom April 2022

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www.HarShalom.org/TheTablet



Welcome Rabbi Simmons בָּרוּכָה הַבָּאָה

Learn more about Rabbi Simmons and what excites her most about joining the Har Shalom Community in this Tablet!



MAKING IT HAPPEN!

PESACH 2022/5782 **HANDBOOK**

Kashering Your Kitchen, Hametz Agreement Form, Passover Schedule, FAQ and more

www.HarShalom.org/Pesach2022





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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.HARSHALOM.ORG/CALENDAR

FROM THE RABBI



Not long ago, I was catching up with my dear friend and rabbinical school chevruta (study) partner, who is now a congregational rabbi in Los Angeles. Almost immediately after getting on the phone, he congratulated me for hiring such an exceptional new rabbi. I asked him how he knew Rachel Simmons, and he told me that a vibrant, retired member of his shul regularly audits classes at the American Jewish University, the home of the Ziegler School fo Rabbinic Studies, where Rachel will be ordained in May. This gentleman raved about how outstanding Rachel is, and wanted his rabbi to convey that message to me. Stories like this have been happening a lot lately! I got an email from Rabbi Brad Artson, the Dean of Ziegler, telling me what "a star team" we will be! The President of the Men's Club where Rachel is currently the Rabbinic Intern (Temple Etz Chaim in Thousand Oaks, CA) wrote to Robert Singman, our Har Shalom Men's Club President, extolling the work Rachel has done at Etz Chaim. Local D.C. colleagues remember Rachel so fondly, and have expressed genuine excitement that she is returning to the area. And as we get closer to her start date, and have more frequent conversations about her onboarding, I don't Rabbi Raskin think anyone is as excited as I am to welcome her to our team and our synagogue family!

In collaboration with the Hazzan, Carly, Beth, and Ruth, we are imagining how Rachel will infuse our congregation with her deep spirituality, soulful music, keen intellect, and passion for Jewish learning and living. A primary focus on her portfolio will be engagement with young families, and our burgeoning ECC community. We are developing ideas for how she will enhance kids and family services on Shabbat and holidays, as well as sharing her wisdom and eloquence in congregational services in the sanctuary. Rachel will take on teaching and pastoral responsibilities, as well as lifecycle events and preaching. She will be a rabbi of this synagogue in every respect, and I am genuinely looking forward to

being a mentor, a clergy partner, and to learning from her prodigious talents.

My family and I remember so lovingly how we were welcomed to Har Shalom 11 years ago. I know you will open your hearts similarly to Rachel, as we all help her to establish herself here at Har Shalom. The Rabbinic Search Committee is being transformed into a Welcoming Committee, and will facilitate the more official and public ways in which we celebrate her arrival.

Writing this message as we conclude the reading of the Book of Exodus, and the completion of the Mishkan, I am reminded of the beautiful Midrash in which Moses blesses the people upon beholding the Holy Tabernacle that they built together. Moses says: "May it be Your will that the Shechinah [God's holy presence] should rest in the work of your hands." (Numbers Rabbah 12:9) As we rejoice in the welcoming of Rabbl Rachel Simmons, I pray, like Moshe Rabbeinu, that the Shechinah should rest in the work of her hands, as she brings her spiritual gifts and leadership to Har Shalom.

Wishing you and your families a Chag Sameach Ve'Kasher...a Passover of joy and celebration with your loved ones.

Always,

FROM THE HAZZAN

Hallel is a collection of Psalms (113-118) which was already in use in Temple times during the 3 pilgrimage holidays, Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot. Pesach is the only holiday in which we sing Hallel at night, in addition to chanting it as part of the



morning service. Hallel is part of the *haggadah*, recited on the first two nights of Pesach. It is also recited during Hanukkah and on Rosh Hodesh (beginning of the Jewish month).

We don't recite Hallel on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kipur, because, as Rav Abahu states (Arachin 10b): "Is it proper for the Ruler to be sitting on The Throne of Judgment, with the Books of Living and the Books of Death open, and for the people to sing to God?" It is understood that Hallel is recited at times of celebration, but the life and death atmosphere of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kipur suggests that Hallel might not be appropriate.

Hallel has been included in more modern holidays, such as Yom haAtsmaut (Israel independence day) and Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem reunification day). The miracle which is the creation and maintenance of the State of Israel, makes Hallel a proper way to ritualize those holidays.

For all its celebratory nature, plenty of passages in Hallel are quite somber: "The dead cannot praise *Adonai*, nor can those who go down into silence" (Ps. 115: 16); "The cords of death encompass me, the grave held me in its grip. I found myself in distress and despair" (Ps. 116: 3); and "Dear in *Adonai's* sight is the death of the righteous" (Ps. 116: 15), to cite a few. The last of the Psalms of Hallel, 118, is sometimes included with the Psalms of Lament, so called because of their focus on deep sorrow for the troubles of a nation, asking for God's blessing or intervention. Other Psalms in this list of Laments are Ps. 6 (used as part of the daily supplications) and Ps. 130 (used as part of the burial ritual).

I believe that the author of the Psalms and the sages that compiled Hallel were fully aware that emotions can coexist, even conflicting emotions. Joy and sadness, comfort and stress; one can feel those emotions at the same time. It is the contrast between light and darkness that allows us to value one more than the other in different situations.

For that reason I welcome both happy and somber melodies when chanting Hallel. Firstly, a melody considered somber by some might be interpreted as longing, nostalgic, or even joyful by others; second, there is no need to limit our emotional involvement with the liturgy by trivializing the depth and richness of the Psalms, limiting them to one interpretation.

One of the melodies I will be using for Hallel during Pesach is this one: *Mah Ashiv L'Adonai (Hallel)* - https://tinyurl.com/46z9a8sb. I invite you to learn it and join me.

May Pesach bring you joy, introspection, and the relief from all that keeps us bloated.

Hazzan Ozur Bass

Mark your calendar!

LEARNER'S MINYAN

with Hazzan Ozur Bass

2nd Shabbat of the Month
10:00AM

Join us in person at Har Shalom

Discover the meaning of the Shabbat morning prayers, and explore your personal meaning for them with Hazzan Ozur Bass.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Yes, this is my April 2022 Tablet Article, which I am writing on March 1 – just to explain I'm talking about past events. Har Shalom was abuzz with activity in February/March. We begun February with two very successful Shabbats with over 150 congregants in attendance and many congregants staying for Kiddush. I hope by the time this article is read, 150 congregants for Shabbat will once again be the norm. The culmination of these Shabbats was the hiring of Rabbi Rachel Simmons. I once again thank the Rabbi Search Committee, chaired by Jillian Bernstein, for all their hard work, and sincerely appreciate their dedication to this process. With the addition of Rabbi Simmons to the Clergy Team and the Har Shalom Community, we can continue to grow our membership and add more programming for our Congregants. Rabbi Simmons will be ordained by the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles on May 16 and begin the next chapter of her life as our Rabbi at Har Shalom on July 1, 2022.

The last Shabbat of February was Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month and our guest speaker the founder of Matan, Meredith Polsky. We then concluded the weekend with a Musical Concert by Hazzan Joanna Dulkin and Hazzan Ozur Bass. The combined voices of Joanna and Henrique was a joy to listen to.

The first weekend of March was Refugee Shabbat, we welcomed the Wahdat and Nasim families. These two families are sponsored and part of the Har Shalom Afghan Refugee Support Team, under the guidance of Stew Remer. We were joined Revered Mark Michael and Kathy Hermann from St. Francis Episcopal Church and Sultan Chowdhury from the Islamic Community Center of Potomac, whose communities are assisting us in sponsorship and support of the Wahdat and Nasim families. If you like to assist with this project, please contact Stew Remer.

We celebrated the Holiday of Purim with the music from Mamma Mia, the reading of the Megillah and eating hamentaschen. My memories of Purim are goldfish and not the crackers. Growing up at Temple Israel in White Plains, the Men's club had a Purim Carnival with many games, activities for the kids, hot dogs and goldfish. I made sure to participate in the game were the prize awarded was goldfish. My Mother was so happy, to see me with a plastic bag filled with water and goldfish.

We begin the festival of Passover on Friday, April 15 and the story of the Exodus of the Jews out of Egypt. My first memory of Passover, is having a Seder with my family, including Grandparents, aunts and ncles, first cousins and myself sitting at the kids table. Besides reciting the four



questions, my only other question was when will the Seder end, I'm hungry!

But, overtime I learned to understand the importance of Passover with the help of the Passover Haggadah and Charlton Heston in the movie the Ten Commandants. Once I began being a parent and my children were old enough, Paulette and I made sure Hannah and Zach understand the Passover story and the importance of the Jewish people leaving Egypt.

Now when we host the Passover Seder with over 35 family members in attendance, I lead the service. We might not have the most conventional Seder, we combine the use of the Passover Haggadah along with a Passover Poem. But, I make sure we tell the Passover Story, the youngest child recites the four questions, we recite the ten plagues, sing Dayneu and Had Gadya and of course drink the four cups of wine. No more questions about when dinner is being served!

I encourage all congregants to read the Tuesdays and Thursdays weekly emails from Har Shalom to learn all about the various programs and activities happening at Har Shalom.

Chag Sameach and enjoy 8 days of Matzah.

L'shalom,

Michael & Baron

GETTING TO KNOW RABBIRACHEL SIMMONS



Rabbi Rachel Simmons is thrilled to be joining Congregational Har Shalom! Rabbi Simmons grew up in Alexandria, VA and lived in Central America and Europe before studying at the Ziegler School for Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, CA. She is receiving her ordination as a Rabbi this coming May. Rabbi Simmons also holds a B.A. in German Studies and Linguistics from the College of William and Mary. Rabbi Simmons currently serves as the Rabbinic Intern at Temple Etz Chaim in Thousand Oaks, CA, where she co-leads all services, including Tot Shabbats. She also teaches the high school confirmation class and a variety of adult education classes. Rabbi Simmons has strong ties to the DC area having grown up here. She provided over 300 hours of clinical pastoral care at the National Institutes of Health during her rabbinic studies and previously was a preschool art teacher and Shabbat leader at the DC JCC. She loves making music, learning foreign languages, and snuggling with her rescue cats, Galilee and Kohelet.

What do the last few months of rabbinical school look like? What are plans for Ordination?

I'll be spending the last few months of rabbinical school finishing up my final semester of coursework, serving the local community as a rabbinic intern and *mikveh* attendant, and saying goodbye to beautiful Southern California. Then, I'm going to pack up my two cats and roadtrip cross-country to Maryland!

Ordination itself will include a ceremony, a new *tallit* and title, and celebrating with my cohortmates and our instructors. We've been together for half a decade, and I am so grateful for their support and friendship.

What excites you the most about coming to Har Shalom?

It's hard to pick what excites me most about coming to Har Shalom— mainly I'm just over the moon that I get to do the work I feel called to do in such a loving, welcoming community. If I had to pick a few things to name, though, I'd say that I'm looking forward to hanging with the ECC kids and families in particular and to experiencing one of the theatrical productions I heard so much about on my visit. I can't wait to reconnect with the HSRS students who asked so many thought provoking questions. I'm also excited to learn Hazzan Ozur Bass's favorite melodies, perhaps write some music together, and invent some new harmonies. Finally, I'm thrilled that I'll get to work with the phenomenal staff at Har Shalom (including the other members of the clergy team) as we encourage each other to live our values and be proud of who we are as individuals, as Jews, and as a sacred community.

What are some of the first things you think you'll do when you start in July?

When I imagine my very first week as a Rabbi at Har Shalom, I think of: organizing and reorganizing office space, visiting the ECC several times, praying alone and with the community, enjoying many cups of coffee, meetings with all kinds of people, wandering into the sanctuary every day to marvel at its beauty, learning names, exploring the building and Potomac, and of course, visiting the Raskin's pup, Luna!













FROM THE SHERMAN ECC



The Sherman ECC is looking for pre-teens and teens who want to volunteer here this summer. If your child, grandchild or neighbor loves young children and has some experience, I invite then to apply. Camp dates are June 20th - August 19th. We are looking for volunteers for all parts of our day, mornings and afternoons as we are open from 7:30am - 5:30pm. All volunteers must be vaccinated and boosted. We are on the approved list to give SSL hours for MCPS and ask for a commitment of two consecutive weeks. If your child is interested, they should email me, bhoch@harshalom.org, and I will send them the application. All new volunteers will have an interview and orientation. I also look forward to welcoming back volunteers that have been with us previously!

Check out PJ Library for great resources for young families to do in preparation for and during Passover. On their site, you will find *Haggadot*, mini-seders, playlists, recipes, videos, lunch ideas and games. https://pilibrary.org/passover

Wishing you and your family a meaningful Passover!

L'shalom, Beth Hoch





PURIM FUN AT THE SHERMAN ECC!















FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Ruth M. Szykman
Director of Religious School
301-299-7087, ext. 229
ruth@harshalom.org

Spring always has me thinking about Jewish identity. In the Pesach story, we see a people who were slaves struggle to find themselves and create a nation based on a totally new belief and faith. *Lag B'omer* reminds us that under Roman persecution, the Jewish people had to study Torah in secret to keep Judaism alive. We will celebrate the three 20th century Jewish festivals in Spring as well – these three "Yoms" keep us strongly connected to Israel. In each of the three, we see that no matter what the adversity or how strong the enemy, we were able to strengthen our Jewish identity and proudly show to it the world.

Jewish identity is one of the main building blocks of HSRS. Our students all come from different schools, different backgrounds, different neighborhoods – but when they arrive to HSRS, they are one community. A great part of childhood development revolves around our identity and how we define ourselves. Here at HSRS, we have an incredible partnership between teachers, clergy and parents to guide students to positively nurture and explore the Jewish part of their identity and help them build a rich connection to Judaism. What our students believe and practice will change and evolve as they grow into adults, but the knowledge and support we offer to them at HSRS gives our students the right tools to be on that journey.



HSRS PURIM IN PICTURES!







PESACH WITH HAR SHALOM

Visit <u>www.HarShalom.org/Pesach2022</u> for Services Schedule with links for virtual participation and Candle Lighting times.

Thursday, April 14

Bedikat Hametz (search for hametz)

Friday, April 15 – Fast of the first born; candle lighting 7:28 PM

Fast begins, 5:08 AM

Minyan followed by Siyum Ha-Bekhorim, 8:00 AM (Zoom)

The last time to eat hametz, 10:55AM

The latest time to sell hametz, 12:00 PM -

Mekhirat Hametz Agreement on next page

Friday Evening Services, 6:30 PM (In person and Zoom)

First Seder

Saturday, April 16 - Pesach, Day 1;

candle lighting after 8:28 PM

Shaharit, 9:30 AM (In person or LiveStream)

Second Seder: no Ma'ariv - begin counting the Omer

Sunday, April 17 – Pesach, Day 2

Shaharit, 9:30 AM (In person or LiveStream)

End of yom tov, 8:30PM

Traditional Ma'ariv, 8:30PM (Zoom) - Count the Omer

Monday, April 18 – Hol HaMoed, Pesach Day 3

Shaharit, 8:00 AM (Zoom)

Contemplative Practice, 7:30 PM (Zoom and Facebook Live)

Tuesday, April 19 – <u>H</u>ol HaMoed, Pesach Day 4

Shaharit, 8:00 AM (Zoom)

Contemplative Practice, 7:30 PM (Zoom and Facebook Live)

Wednesday, April 20 – Hol HaMoed, Pesach Day 5

Shaharit, 8:00 AM (Zoom)

Contemplative Practice, 7:30 PM (Zoom and Facebook Live)

Thursday, April 21 – <u>H</u>ol HaMoed, Pesach Day 6;

candle lighting 7:34PM

Shaharit, 8:00 AM (Zoom)

No Contemplative Practice

Pesach Services, 6:30 PM (In person and Zoom)

Friday April, 22 – Pesach Day 7;

candle lighting before 7:35 PM

Shaharit, 9:30 AM (In person or LiveStream)

Friday Night Services, 6:30 PM (In person and Zoom)

Saturday April, 23 – Pesach last day

Shaharit, 9:30 AM (In person or LiveStream)

No Ma'ariv service

End of yom tov, 8:39PM

HOW TO KASHER YOUR KITCHEN FOR PESACH

Some utensils and cookware that are used throughout the year may be kashered for Passover. If you have any questions that are not answered here, please contact Rabbi Raskin: rabbiraskin@harshalom.org or 240-687-7218.

1 EARTHWARE

such as china or pottery cannot be kashered for Passover.

2 METAL POTS, PANS & COOKWARE

that are wholly metal and used in fire (e.g. the broiler) must be scrubbed and cleaned and made red hot. Fill up pots and boil water so that it overflows their rims. Silverware, after having been washed with soap and water, should be set aside for 24 hours then immersed completely in boiling water.

3 OVEN RANGES

that come into direct contact with food should be cleaned thoroughly. The oven should then be heated on the highest possible temperature for 30 minutes, or programmed to self-clean. A microwave, after being cleaned, must have a cup of water placed inside the chamber and turned on until the water disappears. If the microwave has a browning element, it may not be kashered for Passover.

4 GLASSWARE

such as drinking glasses (not Pyrex), should be washed thoroughly with soap and water or put through the dishwasher.

5 ELECTRIC APPLIANCES

with removable parts should be kashered appropriately (e.g. for metal parts, follow #2 above). If the parts are not removable and they come into direct contact with food, the appliance may not be kashered for Passover.

6 TABLES, CABINETS & COUNTERS

that come into contact with hametz should be thoroughly cleaned and covered. Granite countertops do not have to be covered after kashering.

KITCHEN SINKS

that are metal may be kashered by pouring boiling water over the surfaces. Porcelain sinks must be well cleaned and a new sink rack or basin should be used during Passover.

REFRIGERATORS & FREEZERS

should be washed well with soap and water. All hametz should be removed or sealed in a closed box or bag (and sold with other hametz).

9 KITCHENWARE

that is not kosher for Passover should be separated and either covered or closed in a separate part of the kitchen.





Mekhirat <u>H</u>ametz Agreement Pesa<u>h</u> 5782/2022

Please complete this *Mekhirat <u>Hametz</u>* Agreement form, and return it to Har Shalom no later than 12:00 PM on Friday, April 15th.

- Complete this form online: www.harshalom.org/hametz
- Mail to: Rabbi Adam Raskin

Congregation Har Shalom

11510 Falls Road Potomac, MD 20854

- Fax to: 301-299-2247
- Email to: rabbiraskin@harshalom.org

Name:	
Address:	
Additional addresses where <u>hametz</u> migh	nt be found:
	askin to act on my behalf in selling the_hametz in my will return to my possession after 8:36 PM on Saturday,
Signature:	Date:
Attached please find my donation to the (if returning the form by mail)	Rabbi's Discretionary Fund for \$

Let all who are hungry, come and eat. -Haggadah

Do you have an extra place at your virtual Seder table? Do you need a place at a virtual Seder table? *Pesah* hospitality is an important *mitzvah*. Please email Leslie in the Clergy Office at leslie@harshalom.org and she will make a *shidduh* (match)!

Pesach continued...

Dear Friends,

It is with joy and anticipation that we prepare as a synagogue community for the festival of Passover. Through festive meals, retelling the story of our liberation, singing, and celebrating, this holiday comes alive for us and our families. In order to prepare your home and heart for Passover, please consult this guide. For more detailed information, please see the Rabbinical Assembly's Passover Guide at:

https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/pesah-guide-5782.pdf

The Rabbinical Assembly has tons of resources on their website to enrich your Passover preparations, prayers, and seder: https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/jewish-law/holidays/pesah/pesah-prep-and-resources

I am also available for any questions that may arise during your Passover cleaning, preparation, and shopping. You may call me at any time at 240-687-7218. Wishing you and your loved ones a \underline{h} ag kasher ve'samea \underline{h} , a kosher and joyful Passover...

Rabbi Adam Raskin

View and Print the <u>Hametz Agreement Form:</u> www.HarShalom.org/Hametz

FAQs

What is hametz?

The word הְּמֵּיץ is translated as "leavened bread." This refers to foods prepared from any of five different types of grain (wheat, barley, oats, spelt, rye) that has been allowed to rise. Ashkenazic custom adds rice, millet, corn, and legumes (referred to as 'kitniyot') to this list. In November 2015, the Rabbinical Assembly's committee on Jewish law and standards voted that the prohibition on kitniyot for Ashkenazic Jews is no longer necessary. Please note that not all Ashkenazic Jews or Conservative Jews have adapted this standard.

Why must we do such extensive cleaning in preparation for Passover?

The Torah prohibits Jews from consuming, owning, or deriving benefit from <u>hametz</u>. Before Passover begins, we engage in a thorough cleaning of our homes, offices, and cars to remove any traces of <u>hametz</u>. While it is preferable to consume or donate excess <u>hametz</u> foods prior to Passover, this is not always possible or economically feasible. In response, Rabbi Raskin will arrange a sale of <u>hametz</u> products to a non-Jew in the community, who will "own" these items throughout the duration of Passover. All <u>hametz</u> products, dishes, silverware, and pots that will remain in your home during Passover must be placed in cabinets or closets that remain closed and sealed throughout the week of Passover.

What is the Siyyum Ha'Bekhorim?

It is a *mitzvah* for firstborn Jews to fast on the day before Passover in remembrance of being spared the fate of the firstborn Egyptians. However, firstborns may be exempt from this fast if they participate in the celebration of a *siyyum* (the completion of a significant amount of Torah study). Every week, a dedicated group has been studying a complete tractate of the *Mishnah* in preparation for the *siyyum*. Even if you have not participated in this study group previously, you are encouraged to join us for morning minyan at 8:00 AM on Thursday, April 14th, followed by the Siyyum.

What foods require Rabbinic certification during Passover?

Matzah, noodles, candies, cakes, beverages, canned and processed foods, processed cheeses, jam, jelly, relishes, wines, liquors, salad oils/dressings, vegetable gelatin, shortenings, vinegar.

Are there foods that do not require special labeling?

If unopened and purchased before Passover begins, the following products require no special certification: pure natural coffee, sugar (not confectioners or powdered), pure brown sugar, saccharin, tea, salt, pepper, frozen vegetables (without additives), frozen fruit juices (without additives), vegetables (string beans are permitted), honey, 100% pure safflower or soy bean oil, nuts (except legumes if you do not eat *kitniyot*), baking soda, detergents and scouring powders.

If purchased before or during Passover, the following products require no special certification: fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, fresh fish and meat.

If purchased during Passover, the following products require certification: all processed foods (canned, frozen, or bottled dairy products, juices).

Can any dishes or utensils be used during Passover?

It is preferable to have special dishes and cookware reserved exclusively for Passover use. Certain items, however, can be *kashered* for use during Passover. Earthenware, enamelware, or porcelain utensils used during the rest of the year may not be *kashered* or used during Passover.

What is Bedikat <u>H</u>ametz?

After our homes have been thoroughly cleaned for Passover, and \underline{h} ametz items are stored away, it is traditional to perform a 'search' by candle light, feather, and spoon symbolizing that all visible \underline{h} ametz has been removed. **Note:** this is a fun, memorable ritual for children to participate in; it is traditional to place a few crumbs to be 'found' during the search.

What is Bedikat Hametz?

After our homes have been thoroughly cleaned for Passover, and <u>hametz</u> items are stored away, it is traditional to perform a 'search' by candle light, feather, and spoon symbolizing that all visible <u>hametz</u> has been removed. **Note:** this is a fun, memorable ritual for children to participate in; it is traditional to place a few crumbs to be 'found' during the search. On the night before Passover, following the search, we recite the following formula renouncing our connection to any <u>hametz</u>:

בָּל חֲמִרָא וַחֲמִיעָא דְאִבָּא בִּרְשׁוּתי דַּחֲמִתֵּה דְּבִעַרתֵה וּדְלָא בִערְתֵּה לִבְמִיל וִלֶהֵוִי הֵפּקֵר בִּעַפָּרָא דִאַרִעָא.

Kol <u>h</u>amirah va-<u>h</u>ami'ah d'ika vir'shuti da-<u>h</u>amitei d'vi-artei u'd-la vi-artei liv'til v'lehevei hefker ke-afra de-ar'ah.

All manner of leaven in my possession which I have not seen or not removed is hereby annulled and considered as the dust of the earth.

What is Biyyur Hametz?

On the morning before Passover we burn the <u>h</u>ametz found during the search on the previous night. If completing at home, this must be done by 11:59 AM on Friday, April 15th. The latest time to consume <u>hametz</u> on Friday, April 15th, is 10:59 AM.

NEW MEMBERS

The Har Shalom community extends a warm welcome to the following members who joined the congregation from August 2021 to February 2022. Please use your Online Membership Directory so you can reach out and personally welcome them!

Anna & Shay Cohen Matan (3)

Michelle Diamant

Annette Drazin

Dara & Craig Friedson Emerson (10), Riley (8), Dylan (7), Logan (5)

Elyssa Hammerman & Jonathan Kessler Ari (1)

Robin & Stanley Hein

Emily Hitt & Howard Reichel

Candace Kaplan & Ronald Lipsman

Rachel & Jeffrey Karton William (14), Franklin (11)

Alina & Joseph Kogan Emily (4) & Benji (8)

Renee & Joshua LeVine Rachel (13), Abigail (10)

Rita & Douglas Lewis

Elisha & Stephen Lubar Daniella (9)

Michal Marell, Heath Marell Jamine (10), Ari (8)

Danielle Menditch & Ian Roessle

Alyssa & Sam Mrvos Martin (11) Renee Orleans & Stephen Gittleman Avery (7)

Rachel & Steven Rabin Jocelyn (1)

Kathy Stora

Marcia Witt

Erin & Daniel Zenilman Vivien (2), Jane (5 months)



Erin, Daniel, Jane (5 months), and Vivien (2) Zenilman



Howard Reichell & Emily Hitt



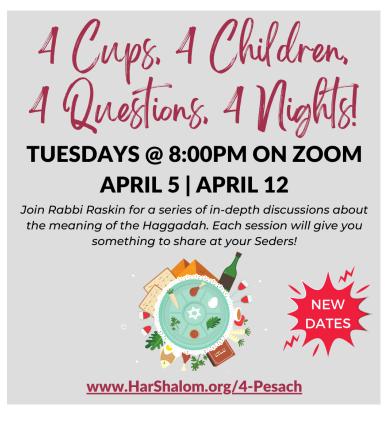
Steven, Rachel, and Jocelyn (1) Rabin



Stephen Gittleman, Avery (7), and Renee Orleans

ADULT EDUCATION

For a full list of upcoming Adult Education, visit www.HarShalom.org/Adult-Ed





Following a successful launch of our ScholarStream program in 5781, we are excited to announce the full year of ScholarStream learning in 5782! Beginning in October and spanning all the way up to Shavuot, the Conservative Movement seminaries and institutions are partnering to offer eight series that will bring you face-to-face with the brightest and most engaging scholars our movement has to offer.

For more information, visit: www.HarShalom.org/ScholarStream2022

FROM SOCIAL ACTION AND TIKKUN OLAM

Sisterhood leads Har Shalom's Social Action and Tikkun Olam activities, encouraging congregants to do good in the community!

THANKS TO YOU for your <u>ongoing donations</u> of new and gently used bras and unopened feminine hygiene products, nonperishable food, school and cleaning supplies, toiletries, and new knit, crocheted, and fleece blankets.

As you prepare for Passover, don't forget to bring <u>Hametz</u> to Har Shalom for donation to Manna. Also needed: **Kosher for Passover** food for Yad Yehuda, and the Kosher food pantry.

Cook with our **KindSoups** program, as **Har Shalomers** get together to **Zoom cook soup**. We donate soup to the Upcounty Consolidation Hub in Germantown and to friends in need. Join us on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month as we cook vegetable-based soups for the food insecure.

Check weekly emails for important links and all upcoming programs and collections.



FROM THE HESED COMMITTEE

The Hesed Committee has been busy these past few months!

- Collected clothing, books and gift cards for a family forced out of home due to flood
- 4 meals delivered to a family in need
- 14 meals delivered to a family recovering from accident
- 4 meals delivered to a family recovering from surgery
- 10 meals delivered to a congregant undergoing chemo and radiation treatment
- Continued weekly check in calls to older congregants

These numbers are not just statistics, but a demonstration of love and care within the Har Shalom family. It is our goal as the <u>Hesed</u> Committee to bring our Har Shalom community together through

SHARING IS CARING!

Join the <u>H</u>esed Committee in supporting members of our community by providing a meal through MealTrain or SignUp Genius.
For more information

and to sign-up visit: www.HarShalom.org/hesedMT

Thank you in advance for your help and support!
As always, if you or anyone you know is in need,
please email <u>hesed@harshalom.org</u>
so we can reach out and offer support.

volunteering and supporting one another. Sometimes you may need loving concern, a friendly phone call, or a homemade meal from our community. Other times you may be able to help someone who needs your kindness. The <u>H</u>esed Committee aims to help you feel that your Har Shalom family is a warm and caring community that is here for you, no matter what you may be experiencing.

We always need your help! Have you heard of a Har Shalom member who you think could use a phone call or other comfort? Please email Hesed Committee: Hesed@HarShalom.org or call Leslie in the clergy office.

If you have time to make a few phone calls, write some handwritten cards, make a meal or delivery, please contact us at Hesed@HarShalom.org or email or call us directly. We are always welcoming new ideas and new members to our committee.

Aileen Goldstein & Fran Elson Co-chairs, Hesed Committee

FROM THE HAR SHALOM PLAYERS

Mamma Mia! Postponed

HSP's production of *Mamma Mia!*, postponed from March 2022 to this coming Memorial Day Weekend as a concert version, is now rescheduled as a full production during the weekend of January 28-29, 2023. This change returns HSP productions to the schedule followed for many years before COVID. Look for more information about our *Mamma Mia!* production in upcoming Har Shalom Tablet articles.

FROM DAYTIMERS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



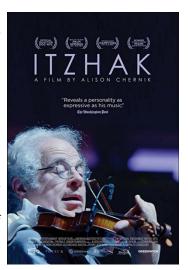
You're invited to bring a dairy or pareve lunch and join us at Har Shalom at noon - Program begins at 12:30PM.

April 20 "ITZHAK" – USA – 82 minutes

Here we have another documentary, but of quite a different nature than last month's film.

We have all heard violinist Itzhak Perlman play and we've heard bits about his life story, but this enchanting film looks beyond the superb musician to look at his life, work and religious heritage. It is also a love story – between Itzhak and his wife, Toby Perlman.

Itzhak Perlman is the leading violinist of our day. However, even more important than that, he's a mensch. He is a thoughtful and joyous man. What makes this documentary so good is that director Alison Chernick brings out this quality of Perlman. It's there on the screen, where we can all see it. Some great artists can be brooding and antisocial. Not Perlman. He plays, he laughs, and he enjoys life, as we will enjoy the film *ITZHAK*.



SAVE THE DATE YOM HA'ZIKARON 4 YOM HA'ATZMAUT WITH HAR SHALOM!

Wednesday, May 4 @ Har Shalom

Join us for a short *Yom Ha'Zikaron* Memorial Service followed by *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* Celebration marking Israel's 74th Birthday - more details to follow!

FROM THE MEN'S CLUB



On Sunday, April 3rd the Men's Club of Har Shalom has arranged a tour of Fort Ritchie in Cascade, Maryland, about 60 minutes from the synagogue.

The tour will begin at 11:00AM and last about one hour and 30 minutes. Through a thoughtfully curated collection of artifacts, memorabilia and exhibits, the formerly top-secret military operations at the base are brought to life. The discussion will focus on the military training conducted there and the soldiers known as the Ritchie Boys (recently featured on CBS' 60 Minutes). Afterwards there will be a brief tour of Fort Ritchie.

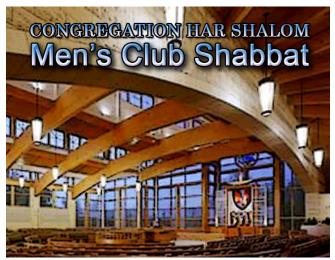
The Ritchie Boys were immigrants, refugees, children of immigrants, and others with knowledge of the enemy's lands and cultures who were recruited by the U.S. Army to be trained for specialized military intelligence tasks. Many were German and Austrian Jews who were exiled from their native countries. For decades, the Ritchie Boys kept to their oath of secrecy, and their story is only being told more than 70 years after the end of World War II.

Attendance is limited to 40 people and <u>advance registration is required</u>. After 40 people, a waiting list will be maintained. A detailed map, including driving directions, will be given to participants. We will let participants know who is attending so that they can form carpools, if they desire, leaving from Har Shalom at 9:45 AM.

No food or transportation is provided and there is no cost for the program.

SAVE THE DATE!





Men's Club Shabbat will be on April 30th. All Men's Club members have an opportunity to sign up and take part, as we conduct the entire Shabbat service and sponsor the kiddush. It is a great way for members to raise their personal level of participation. This will be an in-person service. There are over 35 honors available so if you would like to know more or volunteer to participate, please contact Men's Club Shabbat chairman Abe Akresh at abeakresh@gmail.com or call 301-762-0341. Thirteen parts are already filled; act quickly if you want a part. New members are especially encouraged to participate.

MAZEL TOV!



Men's Club 2022 Blue Yarmulke Person of the Year - Abraham D. Akresh, Congregation Har Shalom

Men's Club at Har Shalom honors **Abe Akresh** as our **2022 Blue Yarmulke Person of the Year** at the 2022 Seaboard Region MVP Awards. This year, the event options include both an in-person Brunch on April 10th, 2022 costing \$40 pp, or Free (without the Brunch). A website is open for attendance registration and placement of Tribute ads. Please visit the site at https://www.wizevents.com/fjmcseaboard2022/

Abe is being recognized for his many years of service to Har Shalom and our Men's Club.

CATCH UP WITH THE SISTERHOOD

From Your Sisterhood President, Susan Grant



Spring is upon us and Sisterhood is flourishing with programs for women and the congregation as a whole. Before reviewing our April programs, which you can view in the graphics on the next

page, let me say how grateful we are to the Har Shalom community. You took part in our Mishloah Manot Purim fundraiser by purchasing scrolls to be sent to your family and friends. While the final tally is not yet completed, we are confident we have met our goal! We continued our second year of providing Mishloah Manot to IDF soldiers and we are so proud to be able to do it. Sisterhood used some funds from the Marsha Schwartz Pure Heart Fund to make this mitzvah possible. We know our dear friend Marsha would wholeheartedly approve of this expenditure. Sisterhood is also extremely proud to be able to provide funds to the HSRS (Har Shalom Religious School) to purchase large screen computers that will be dedicated for classroom use.

April is full of programs which includes a special Rosh Hodesh program held at a private home. The private home is mine and I'm so pleased to be able to celebrate Shabbat with Sisterhood women. This month also includes our monthly book club, KindSoups program 2x this month, and a Yoga Fusion class as part of the Let's Get Physical program taught by a terrific guest instructor.

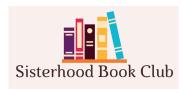
We are in the process of creating a Nominating Committee who will be in charge of selecting the next generation of Sisterhood Steering Committee members. If you would like to be on the Nominating Committee or would like to be considered to be on the Steering Committee itself, please contact me. You do not need to be an active member of Sisterhood now to be considered for either role: however. we are looking for women of all ages who have the desire to join a cadre of active, kind, and energetic women who feel strongly about forming connections, doing good deeds, and having fun together. Is that you?

Program Recap: Healthy Eating & Lifestyle -**Facts and Myths**

Har Shalom member Lori Shell led a very informative nutrition program for Sisterhood on February 9th. Almost 40 women logged in to hear practical and commonsense nutrition information. The conversation ranged from learning about saturated vs. unsaturated fat to what qualifies as water in our quest for 8 glasses of water a day to learning that the average sized apple actually counts as two servings of fruit. The participants could have kept the conversation going long into the night! Future sessions with a focus on a specific topic were requested. We thank Lori for her time and for sharing her knowledge with us!

Purim Greetings Project 2022

Even though we had hoped to be able to assemble and deliver Purim Baskets in person this year, the covid pandemic made it impossible again. So instead we took orders for and mailed Purim Greetings to about 750 recipients. The campaign was very successful—thanks to all who submitted their orders! We expect to raise at least \$13,000! The Purim Basket Committee hopes to see you all back in person next year.



May 4

We invite all Sisterhood members to join the Book Club discussion Sisterhood Book Club group. We meet on the first Wednesday of the

month at 1:00 pm and will be using Zoom until we can meet in person. Please join us for the upcoming discussions:

Unstoppable by Joshua Green April 6 facilitated by Yetta Plotnick

> The Light of Days: The Untold Story of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler's Ghetto by Judy Batalion facilitated by Ellen Cades

Email us at sisterhoodbookclub@harshalom.org if you'd like to be part of the Book Club so we can send you a link to the Zoom meetings!



Yoga Fusion - A beautiful combination of yoga flows, Pilates and inspiring music to build strength and flexibility around great posture. There are plenty of options throughout so you can enjoy this class whether you're new to yoga or a seasoned yogi. You will leave the class feeling both energized and relaxed. A yoga mat is recommended and bare feet are best... but neither are essential.

The cost to attend is \$10.

This session will be in person - masks required.

www.HarShalom.org/LetsGetPhysical



IF YOU KNOW OF A SISTERHOOD MEMBER WHO IS ILL OR SOME FAMILY MEMBER WHO HAS PASSED AWAY, PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL LOIS FORSTER SO SHE CAN SEND, ON BEHALF OF SISTERHOOD, A GET WELL GREETING OR A SYMPATHY CARD.

ALSO, IF YOU KNOW OF A SIMCHA IN A MEMBER'S LIFE, SUCH AS A BABY, ENGAGEMENT, WEDDING, AWARD, ETC., PLEASE CONTACT LOIS FORSTER SO SHE CAN SEND OUT A CARD FROM SISTERHOOD.

LOIS FORSTER 301-770- 8668 LOISFORSTER@GMAIL.COM

TORAH FUND UPDATE

Dear Friends.

This is the final Tablet article for the 2021 Torah Fund Campaign, "B'Yaḥad, together." Throughout this, the second year, of dealing with the coronavirus and its variants, we have persevered by running a Torah Fund Campaign to raise funds in support of our Seminary and Rabbinical schools worldwide. During this difficult time, our Sisterhood Torah Fund Committee has worked, Makom B'Yaḥad, all of us together, to present programs, both educational and entertaining, via Zoom. We even managed to have a well attended "Brunch In A Bag" Torah Fund program via Zoom.

In May each of the five schools we support will hold graduation/ordination ceremonies for our future Rabbis, Cantors, Historians, Educators and Lay Leaders. As you know, we will be welcoming one of these recently ordained rabbis, Rabbi Rachel Simmons, as our second rabbi.

Without the support of the Women's League Torah Fund Campaign, many of these graduates would tell you that they wouldn't have had the funding to continue their pursuit of reaching this goal in their lives. Each year, the Torah Fund Campaign raises approximately \$1.5 million to support our schools, faculty, and their students. In addition, each year our sisterhood has enjoyed the reputation for raising one of the highest levels of contributions in all of Women's League. However, this year has found us to be short of our expected goal of raising our usual \$26,000. If you have made a pledge to this year's campaign and/or received a Torah Fund pin, depicting this year's theme of *B'Yachad*, but have not yet fulfilled this pledge, please know that your donation is crucial in order for us to reach our goal.

We are always **grateful for all donations**, no matter how large or how small. Please consider helping us to reach our goal by making your donation today. All donations can be made either on-line by going to the Torah Fund Website, at https://torahfund.jtsa.edu or by sending a check made out

to **Torah Fund**, to my address as shown below. The five schools that we support are listed below, along with the levels of giving. If you make a donation through the website, please be sure to indicate that you belong to Har Shalom Sisterhood, so we receive the credit towards our goal. While you're on the website, take a look at the beautiful new Torah Fund e-cards that are available for you to send.

Your Har Shalom Sisterhood Torah Fund Committee consisting of Ellen Bresnick, Toby Holtzman, Hanna Lee Pomerantz, Shelley Remer, and myself, want to thank you for your generosity and commitment to our annual campaign. It is our hope that we will be able to have an in-person event for 2022! Until then, please be safe and stay well.

Todah Rabbah, Rita Wertlieb 9301 Wooden Bridge Road Potomac, MD 20854

Levels of Giving:

 Benefactor
 \$180.00

 Guardian
 \$300.00

 Associate Patron
 \$600.00

 Patron
 \$1,200.00

 Scholarship Patron
 \$2,500.00

 Keter Kavod
 \$5,000.00

Torah Fund Supports:

The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, New York The Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Los Angeles The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, Israel The Seminario Rabinnico Latinoamericano, Buenos Aires, Argentina

The Zacharias Frankel College, Pottsdam, Germany

FAMILY NEWS

B'NAI MITZVAH



Farryn Bernstein April 2 Daughter of Brad & Jillian Bernstein

MAZAL TOV! January 15 - February 15

Scott Wertlieb on the 40th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah.

Greg & Melissa Segal on their 10th anniversary.

Alyse and Steve Steinborn on the birth of their granddaughter, Addison Claire Steinborn, on February 5th. The proud parents are Zack and Amy Steinborn.

Elaine Kallen Fertig & Doron Fertig on the birth of their grandson, Ezekiel Rami Krosner, son of Alexandra & Ben Krosner. The excited big brother is Leo Krosner.

Sandie & Lowell Satler on the birth of their granddaughter, Ava Sage Grant, on February 5th, to parents Jillian & Jeremy Grant. Ava is welcomed by big sisters Olivia and Charlotte.

Alyse and Steve Steinborn on the birth of their granddaughter, Addison Claire Steinborn, on February 5th. The proud parents are Zack and Amy Steinborn.

CESJDS graduates and their families:

- Naomi Gould, daughter of Jason Gould & Debbie Reichmann, granddaughter of Thomas Reichmann & Miriam Toporowicz
- Noah Hoch, son of Gerry & Beth Hoch
- Rachel Rabinowitz, daughter of Scott & Diana Rabinowitz
- Zoe Wertlieb, daughter of Scott & Marcie Wertlieb, granddaughter of Ron & Donna Oser and Barry & Rita Wertlieb

CONDOLENCES:

January 15 - February 15

Lenny Haynes on the passing of his mother, Sylvia Haynes

Marcie Blackman on the passing of her brother, Larry Usilaner

Andrew Benson on the passing of his grandmother, Shirlee Benson

Rachel Klipper on the passing of her mother, Lisa Chen

Arden Baker on the passing of his son, Roger Baker

Donations

January 15 - February 15

Alan B. Levenson Fund

In Memory Of Sheila Myers Joan Levenson

Ashin-Zitomer Dor L'Dor Fund

In Honor Of Addison Claire Steinborn Jeffery & Mikki Ashin

Building Improvement Fund

In Memory Of
Larry Usilaner
Dennis & Linda Winson
Roger Baker
Elaine Steppa

Community of Caring

In Memory Of
David Kenton
Dennis & Linda Winson
Stewart & Shelley Remer
Larry Usilaner
Jeffrey & Faith Adler
Janet and Thom Dwork
Edward & Kandy Hutman
Suzanne and Paul Lynch
Rose Robfogel Jaffa
Joseph & Zeevia Jaffa
Shirlee Benson
Aileen Goldstein

General Operating

Network for Good

In Honor Of 10th wedding anniversary aliyah Greg & Melissa Segal

In Memory Of
Eileen Baumel
Yoav Schreiber & Leah Liston
Eleanor Frishman
Samuel Frishman
Joan Wheeler Kaplowitz
Jack & Diana Binder

Gussie Rubenstein Saul Schepartz Helen Wisotsky Philip & Shirley Wisotsky Sarah Rogul Marvin & June Rogul Sylvia Haynes Daniel & Rose Shames

Speedy Recovery Allan Akman Richard & Rhoda Judd

Har Shalom Religious School

Joanna & Danny Bortnick

In Memory Of
Larry Usiliner
Rivka Degani
Lisa Chen
Dan & Betsy New-Schneider

Hazzan's Discretionary

Judy Abrams
Martin Auerbach
Richard & Linda Isen
Susan Rosenstock & James Midanek
Sorell Schwartz
Ira Sherman & Maryjo Meier
Gary & Vicki Simon
Harry Weintrob
Allen & Phyllis Weltz

In Honor Of
Ronen Benji Shauer
Richard & Linda Isen
Hannah Newburger and Benjamin
Lieberman
Richard & Linda Isen

In Memory Of Emanuel Bernstein Hiram & Meryl Bernstein

Sheila Myers Richard & Linda Isen

<u>H</u>evra Kadisha

In Memory Of Sylvia Haynes Jeffery & Meryl Cohen

Holly M. Amsterdam Endowment

In Memory Of
David Feldman
Matthew Holtzman
Florence Wolfe
Gail Provizer-Simmons
Joan Wheeler Kaplowitz
Toby Holtzman
Jeanette and Albert Litman
Sylvia Haynes
Bennett & Judy Lichtman

llene A. Abrams Gemilut Hasadim Fund

In Memory Of Sylvia Haynes Hedda Kenton

Ira & Maryjo Sherman Early Childhood Center

In Honor Of Ronen Benji Shauer Jeffrey & Faith Adler

In Memory Of
Sylvia Haynes
Stewart & Shelley Remer

Kiddush Donation

Speedy Recovery
Seth Bloom
Susan Rosenstock & James Midanek

Morris & Lillian Cahan Adult Education

In Memory Of Freyda Schwartz and Nilda Vazquez Jeremy & Graciela Schwartz

Rabbi's Discretionary

In Honor Of
Bat Mitzvah of my granddaughter,
Madeline Wald
Debra Schwartz

In Memory Of
Jill Shultz
Jeffery & Mikki Ashin
Larry Usilaner
Fern and John Percheski
Eric & Vicki Klein
Marcos Brujis
Denise Brujis
Michael Schwartz
Debra Schwartz
Roger Baker
Brad & Jillian Bernstein
Roslyn and Samuel Immerman
Bruce & Toni Immerman

Sharing Your Blessings

Speedy Recovery
Jessica Simmons-Railey
Susan Rosenstock & James Midanek

In Honor Of
Fara Moskowitz
Susan Rosenstock & James Midanek

World Jewry

In Memory Of Sylvia Haynes David & Wendy Epstein





CEMETERY PLOTS FOR SALE!

NEW PRICING!

Garden of Remembrance in Clarksburg, MD: \$2700 each

Judean Gardens in Olney, MD: \$3000 each

Mt. Lebanon in Adelphi, MD: \$1000 each

Contact Joanna Rubin at <u>jrubin@harshalom.org</u> for more information or to make a purchase.

Shabbat Morning Kiddushes are gearing back up!

OUR OFFERINGS ARE CHANGING WEEKLY, AS THE BUILDING SLOWLY REOPENS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING IN THE KITCHEN TO PREPARE OR SERVE FOOD, GOING SHOPPING FOR INGREDIENTS, OR DONATING MONEY TO ENHANCE THE KIDDUSH EXPERIENCE, PLEASE CONTACT JOANNA RUBIN AT JRUBIN@HARSHALOM.ORG



RABBI Adam J. Raskin

<u>H</u>azzan Henrique ozur bass

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CARLY LITWOK

DIRECTOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION BETH HOCH

> DIRECTOR OF Religious School Ruth Szykman

RABBI EMERITUS Leonard S. Cahan ^{2°L}

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The Har Shalom Legacy Circle recognizes the following donors who thoughtfully provided for the future of Congregation Har Shalom through a Planned Legacy Gift

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SUBMISSIONS to the TABLET are welcome. Please email to <u>tablet@harshalom.org</u>. Deadline for each issue is FOUR WEEKS prior to publication date. The TABLET is published bi-monthly and included with your membership dues, by Congregation Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road, Potomac, Maryland 20854.