

Congregation Ohev Shalom
2 Chester Road
Wallingford, PA 19086

Time Sensitive Material

Volume 11 | Number 7 | March 2023

L'Chaim

לחיים

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Purim

CARNIVAL

Sunday, March 5th 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

MEGILLAH READING

Monday, March 6th 6:00PM



Rabbi's Message—Zooming WAY Out with Rabbi Yitz Greenberg and Yeshivat Hadar



In the final days of January, I found myself in a room full of rabbis and educators from around the United States (and a few from Israel), unsure of exactly what was going to happen next. I had applied to participate in the J.J. Greenberg Institute (JJGI) Fellowship at Yeshivat Hadar several months ago, in a desire to connect with colleagues and refresh my own learning as I continue to settle into my new role here at Ohev. I didn't know much about it, but I knew that there would be Torah, so I filled out the application. To my delight, I was accepted into the fellowship, and the next thing I knew I was booking an Amtrak ticket to New York City for our orientation and opening retreat.

What I found over the next few days was a fascinating, challenging, stimulating, and deeply meaningful experience of learning and collegiality. Together with rabbis and educators from across Jewish movements, I had a rare opportunity to learn from Rabbi Yitz Greenberg, a major figure in the Modern Orthodox world.

Now in his 90s, Rabbi Greenberg is embarking on an effort to lay out a "mission statement" for the Jewish People, as he sees it. His approach to the work is deeply situated in his particular Jewish (and Modern Orthodox) context, but it offers significant food for thought for all of us who have a desire to bring about a more just and peaceful world, especially those who envision doing that work through engagement with the wisdom of the Jewish Tradition. In many ways, his vision is deeply radical as well,

presenting a compelling push and pull of tradition and reinvention.

During our time together, my co-participants and I had animated conversations that touched on so many profound subjects: the benefits and shortcomings of incremental change, the moral significance of seeing the Divine in each person, the struggles we all face when seeking a God who often seems absent, the meaning of "Covenant," and the potential (both constructive and destructive) of Halacha as it is currently practiced. We argued with one another and with Rabbi Greenberg, we ate excellent food, and we shared our personal experiences with trust and vulnerability.

The loveliest part of this entire experience is that it is not over. For the next six months, I will be meeting with my cohort to continue our study with Rabbi Greenberg over Zoom. We will meet every other week until early June, when we will come back together to close out the fellowship at Yeshivat Hadar in New York. By the time you read this, I will have already attended several of these Zoom sessions, and I hope that the Torah I will have gleaned from those meetings will already be part of what I am able to give back to this community.

I am grateful to Ohev Shalom for allowing me the time to be a part of this fellowship, and I look forward to sharing the insights that emerge from the journey!

Rabbi Kelilah Miller

January Tributes (cont.)

Robert Nichols Adult Education Memorial Fund

- To Cathy Baum in honor of receiving the Meritorious Service award from Freema Nichols
- To Joel Fein in honor of receiving the Meritorious Service award from Freema Nichols
- To Susan Cherner in honor of receiving the Woman of the Year award from Freema Nichols
- To Michael Krauss in honor of receiving the Man of the Year award from Freema Nichols

Simon Levin Torah Restoration Fund

- To Linda Stillman in memory of her beloved husband, Alan Stillman, from Ann and Jeffrey Littman
- To Michael Krauss, Susan Cherner, Joel Fein and Cathy Baum in honor of being the 2022 Congregational Award winners from Ann and Jeffrey Littman

- In memory of Henry Littman from Ann and Jeffrey Littman
- To Linda Stillman in memory of Alan Stillman from Donna and Cliff Cohen

Synagogue General Account

- To Joel Fein in honor of receiving the Meritorious Award from Beverly Dickson and Randy Dickson
- To Cathy Baum in honor of your receiving the Meritorious Service award from Beverly Dickson and Randy Dickson
- To Michael Krauss in honor of your receiving the Man of the Year award from Beverly Dickson and Randy Dickson
- To Susan Cherner in honor of receiving the Woman of the Year award from Beverly Dickson and Randy Dickson
- To Marie and Murray Berstein for your gracious hospitality from Jane and Ben-Zion Friedman

- To Cathy Baum in honor of receiving the Meritorious Service award from Missy Lowdermilk
- To Joel Fein in honor of receiving the Meritorious Service award from Missy Lowdermilk
- To Susan Cherner in honor of receiving the Woman of the Year award from Missy Lowdermilk
- To Michael Krauss in honor of receiving the Man of the Year award from Missy Lowdermilk

Yahrzeit/Yizkor Account

- In memory of our mother, Edith Waldman, from Harriet and Robert Madison

SAVE THE DATE!



Second Seder

Thursday, April 6th at 5:30

Details to follow!



L'Chaim is published 10X/Yr by Congregation Ohev Shalom, 2 Chester Road, Wallingford, PA 19086
610-874-1465 • Fax: 610-874-1466 • www.ohev.net • exec@ohev.net
Submissions accepted at: newsletter@ohev.net, Ellen Kornfield and Jen Jablonski, Editors
Kelilah Miller, Rabbi/Education Director • Louis Kaplan, Rabbi Emeritus •
Kelilah Miller, Education Director
Missy Lowdermilk, Executive Director • David Hoffman, President
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January Tributes

Debby Silver Camp Fund

- To Joel Fein in honor of receiving the Meritorious Service award from Naomi and Harvey Spector
- To Cathy Baum in honor of receiving the Meritorious Service award from Naomi and Harvey Spector
- To Susan Cherner in honor of receiving the Woman of the Year award from Naomi and Harvey Spector
- To Michael Krauss in honor of receiving the Man of the Year award from Naomi and Harvey Spector

Helping the Community Account

- To Andrew and Rima Himmelstein in memory of Morgan Himmelstein from Susan Weil and Michael Adesman
- To Penni Zalman-Cotler and family in loving memory of Sandy Zalman from Wendy and Michael Dignazio
- To Lisa Gardner in memory of your mother, Sheila Gardner, from Beverly Dickson

Jack Swerman

Building/Architectural Account

- To Jannis Rubinstein in loving memory of Marshall Swerman from Wendy and Michael Dignazio

Joseph & Edith Godick Jewish History Lecture Fund

- To Susan Cherner in honor of receiving the Woman of the Year award from Donna and Cliff Cohen

Judy Brown Memorial Account

- To Susan Cherner in honor of receiving the Woman of the Year Award from Wendy and Michael Dignazio
- To Michael Krauss in honor of receiving the Man of the Year Award from Wendy and Michael Dignazio
- To Cathy Baum in honor of receiving the Meritorious Service Award from Wendy and Michael Dignazio
- To Joel Fein in honor of receiving the Meritorious Service Award from Wendy and Michael Dignazio

Netzach Fund

- To Cathy Baum in honor of your receiving the Meritorious Service Award from Marie and Murray Berstein. Thank you for all the work you do.
- To Joel Fein in honor of your receiving the Meritorious Service Award from Marie and Murray Berstein. Thank you for all the work you do.
- To Michael Krauss in honor of your being named Man of the Year from Marie and Murray Berstein. Thank you for all the work you do.
- To Susan Cherner in honor of your being named Woman of the Year from Marie and Murray Berstein. Thank you for all the work you do.
- To Sara and Daniel and Alec Marcq: Mazal tov on the birth of Jack from Amy and David Pollack
- To Linda Stillman in memory of Alan Stillman, from Amy and David Pollack
- To Andrew and Rima Himmelstein in loving memory of Morgan Himmelstein from Amy and David Pollack
- To Lisa Gardner in memory of mother, Sheila Gardner, from Amy and David Pollack
- To Lisa Gardner in memory of Sheila Gardner from Sylvia Schneider. May her memory be for a blessing.

Rabbi Louis and Mindell Kaplan Cultural Fund

- To Sara and Daniel and Alec Marcq: Mazal tov on the birth of Jack Marcq from Paula Cherner and Lisa Karlin

Rabbi's Discretionary Account

- To Joel Fein: Mazal tov on receiving the Meritorious Service award from Betty Bard and Jay Adelsberg
- To Cathy Baum: Mazal tov on receiving the Meritorious Service Award from Betty Bard and Jay Adelsberg
- To Susan Cherner: Mazal tov on receiving the Woman of the Year award from Betty Bard and Jay Adelsberg
- To Michael Krauss: Mazal tov on receiving the Man of the Year award from Betty Bard and Jay Adelsberg

President's Message

Updating Our Governance Structure—The Time Is Now



Sholem aleykhem. Vos makht ir? How are you? February has come and gone and if you read my last month's column, it did not disappoint. On February 1st, I tested positive for Covid-19 which was followed by a devastating loss by the Philadelphia Eagles in the Super Bowl.

Candidly, I am stuck in the anger stage of grief and am hoping to move past this loss by Opening Day for the Phillies season. But not everything was negative...the director, cast and crew of *Pippin* did a magnificent job as did Rabbi Miller during her Welcome Shabbat. And now, leadership and the Board have some "Magic to Do" as it pertains to our governance structure.

You may recall that in the Spring of 2021, there was some discussion regarding a change in our awards from Man and Woman of the Year to Persons of the Year. That discussion triggered a review of Ohev's Bylaws and Constitution. Shortly thereafter, it became clear that our Founding Fathers and Mothers were a bit too prescriptive and our entire governance model was outdated. In October 2021, we retained Rabbi David Teutsch, an expert in synagogue bylaws and governance, and the Board held a retreat led by Rabbi Teutsch to address our governance structure. Rabbi Teutsch found our governing documents to be "unique" in not such a great way...we had way too many Board Members, too many Board Committees, items in the Constitution that were appropriate as by-laws and by-laws that were more appropriate as policies and procedures to allow us flexibility in managing Ohev business. Thus, the Governance Modernization Committee (GMC) was formed to attack this daunting challenge.

Before getting to a summary of the work completed to date, I cannot thank the GMC

enough. Specifically, Sarah Goncher, who continues to lead the Committee consisting of Amy Graham, Lila Slovak, Bud Berman, Bruce Godick, and Joel Fein (I have added my two cents as well). This review has not been easy but we are on schedule to present the changes to the congregation for approval at the Congregational Meeting in June. Of note, the Board of Directors was presented with the following summary of recommended changes and discussed them at our January Board of Directors meeting. Overall, the Board is incredibly supportive of enacting these modifications.

Summary of Recommended Changes:

- Replace the Congregation's Constitution and Bylaws with a single set of "Bylaws" to better align with an accepted modern governance approach;
- Establish a range in Board size, with a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 22;
- Decouple being a Committee Chair with being on the Board; individuals who are Committee Chairs may also serve on the Board, but are not required to do so;
- Refine role of Executive Committee to align with more common role of Executive Committee to act quickly when the full Board is unable to act, rather than as vetting body for larger Board; aligns with potential future smaller Board size obviating need for smaller group to review materials/matters; additionally President may continue to meet with Officers and others at their discretion;
- Remove Officer positions of 3rd VP and Assistant Treasurer, but provide Congregation with authority to create new Officer positions as appropriate;
- Modify provisions covering "auxiliary organizations" (i.e. Sisterhood and Men's Club) such that they are permissive rather than mandatory;
- Reduce the number of required standing Committees down to only those deemed necessary for the basic operation of Ohev: (1) Budget and Audit, (2) Ritual, (3)

(Continued on page 4)

President's Message—

Updating Our Governance Structure—The Time is Now (cont. from pg 3)

Membership, (4) School, (5) Facilities and Property, and (6) Cemetery. Importantly, the proposed changes establish a process by which the Board can create other Committees to supplement the required standing Committees. These Committees can be created and resolved by a Board vote, allowing the Congregation to better adapt to changing needs without further modifying Bylaws;

The proposed changes will bring Ohev into the modern era of governance and provide us the flexibility needed to make reasonable adjustments to our internal processes. **I promise to ensure that there will be total transparency in moving forward with these changes.** To that end, all proposed changes will be sent to the congregation in advance of the Congregational Meeting so congregants can perform a thorough review of the proposed modifications and engage in a thoughtful discussion regarding our governance structure.

Ohev leadership and the Board look forward to a robust discussion as we move forward with this important process. Clearly, we are "On The Right Track."

Zay gezunt! Be healthy!
David a/k/a "46"

- Remove required affiliation with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, but retain commitment to conservative Judaism;
- Clarify membership by making it available to adults age eighteen and older who otherwise meet eligibility criteria and are approved by the Board to align membership in a governing sense with the authority to vote on congregational matters; and
- Streamline the approach to amending the Bylaws consistent with the approach taken by other congregations in their own bylaws.



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March Calendar

Recurring Events
Minyan
9:00 a.m. Sunday
8:00 a.m. Monday – Friday
Bible Study 9:30 a.m.—Wednesday
Shabbat Services
6:00 p.m. Friday
(unless otherwise noted)
9:00 a.m. Saturday Shabbat

- Wednesday, March 1, 2023**
4:15 PM Mispallelim Religious School
- Saturday, March 4, 2023**
11:40 AM Classical Rabbinic Midrash in Rabbi's office
- Sunday, March 5, 2023**
9:00 AM Mispallelim Religious School
Purim Carnival
5:30 PM LifeCenter Dinner
- Monday, March 6, 2023**
Taanit Esther - Erev Purim
6:00 PM Megillah Reading
7:30 PM MT: Reading Hebrew

- Wednesday, March 8, 2023**
4:15 PM Mispallelim Religious School
- Thursday, March 9, 2023**
7:00 PM Budget and Audit Meeting
- Sunday, March 12, 2023**
9:00 AM Mispallelim Religious School with Moving Traditions
- Monday, March 13, 2023**
7:00 PM School Committee Meeting
7:30 PM MT: Reading Hebrew
- Wednesday, March 15, 2023**
4:15 PM Mispallelim Religious School
- Thursday, March 16, 2023**
7:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting
- Friday, March 17, 2023**
5:30 PM Tot Shabbat/Wine & Cheese
6:15 PM Dinner
7:00 PM Shabbat in the Round honoring New Members

- Saturday, March 18, 2023**
11:40 AM Classical Rabbinic Midrash in Rabbi's office
- Sunday, March 19, 2023**
9:00 AM Mispallelim Religious School
- Monday, March 20, 2023**
7:30 PM MT: Reading Hebrew
- Wednesday, March 22, 2023**
4:15 PM Mispallelim Religious School
- Thursday, March 23, 2023**
7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting
- Sunday, March 26, 2023**
9:00 AM Mispallelim Religious School
Field Trip
- Monday, March 27, 2023**
7:30 PM MT: Reading Hebrew
- Wednesday, March 29, 2023**
4:15 PM Mispallelim Religious School

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Tot Shabbat & Shabbat b' Yachad
New Member Shabbat

Sip, eat, and enjoy shabbat with us!

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

5:30 Tot Shabbat / Wine & Cheese
6:15 Dinner - Pizza will be provided
(feel free to bring a dairy or pareve dish to share)
7:00 Shabbat in the Round
8:00 Ice Cream

APPROPRIATE FOR ALL AGES.
BRING A FRIEND, OR COME MAKE A NEW ONE!

Ohev Shalom Pesach/Passover Home Preparation Guide, 5783

(Updated 02/08/23)

Hello wonderful Congregants! Believe it or not, Pesach/Passover is coming in a bit over a month, so rather than wait until the last minute, we have decided to send out the annual Passover guide in early March. There is a lot of information in here, and it can feel a bit overwhelming! I encourage you to find a way to make Passover feel special and significant by using some of our traditional practices, but it is important that preparing for Passover does NOT make you feel like you are a slave to Pharaoh in Egypt. Use these resources and make the decisions that are right for your family. If your Passover has been relatively minimal in the past, maybe you want to consider taking on something new! If Passover is a source of stress for you, it may be that you need to let go of some of the details so that you can focus on the spiritual meaning of liberation rather than the minute details of scrubbing the kitchen. As always, feel free to reach out to me with questions!

In here, you will find:

Guide to keeping Kosher-for-Passover – permitted and prohibited foods

Kashering your kitchen for Passover

Selling *chametz* before Passover, *Bedikat/Bi'ur chametz*

Helping Out in Your Community

Guide to keeping Kosher-for-Passover – permitted and prohibited foods

First, some general background info: 'Passover' and 'Pesach' are two names for the same holiday. Pesach is the Biblical name, and Passover the English translation. One of the most important rules we have about Pesach is that the Torah prohibits the ownership of *chametz* (leavened products) during Pesach. This prohibition is, among other things, a reminder of the simple unleavened matzah that our ancestors ate as they fled bondage. Some also say that eating simple, unleavened food encourages us to cultivate a sense of humility (rather than being "all puffed up"). Also, changing our eating habits for a week can be a wonderful practice of mindfulness around what we eat!

Note: If you have an eating disorder or otherwise experience excessively restricted/rigid eating patterns, it is a mitzvah to protect your health and well-being. It may be appropriate to continue to eat Chametz on Passover if further restricting your eating may be harmful to your health. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions, and follow the instructions of your doctors/mental health professionals.

Prohibited foods include:

- Anything containing the grains wheat, barley, oats, rye
 - Leavened bread, cakes, cookies, etc..
 - Crackers
 - Cereal
 - Pasta
- Coffees containing cereal derivatives
- Anything containing grain alcohol

In some Ashkenazi communities, rice and legumes (*kitniyot*) are prohibited as well – more about this below:

- Corn and corn products
- Rice
- Beans or peas of any kind

Since the Torah prohibits the eating of *chametz* during Pesach, and since many common foods contain some trace amount of *chametz*, it is highly recommended to take advantage of the guidance provided by Kosher-for-Passover *hechshers* (certification symbols) that are on most kosher-for-Passover processed foods

A. Foods which are totally permitted on Passover, whether or not they have a Kosher-for-Passover *hechsher*:

- Fresh fruits and vegetables (for legumes, see below)
- Eggs
- Fresh fish
- Fresh meat.

B. Foods which are permitted without a Kosher-for-Passover *hechsher*, but only if they are bought before the holiday begins:

- unopened packages or containers of natural coffee without cereal additives (However, be aware that coffees produced by General Foods are not Kosher for Passover unless marked KP)
- Sugar and salt (not iodized)
- Black tea (not herbal tea)
- Pepper and other natural spices
- Frozen fruit juices with no additives, frozen (uncooked) fruit or vegetables with no additives (see below for legumes)
- Dairy products such as milk, cheese, butter, cream (but NOT yogurt, ice cream or flavored milks)
- Baking soda

C. Foods which require a Kosher-for-Passover *hechsher* if purchased before or during Pesach:

- All baked products (matzah, cakes, matzah flour, farfel, matzah meal, and any products containing matzah)
- Canned or bottled fruit juices (These juices are often clarified with *kitniyot* which are *not* listed among the ingredients. However, if one *knows* there are no such agents, the juice may be purchased prior to Pesach without a *Kosher le-Pesach* label)

Social Action (cont. from page 14)

Last but not least, I want to tell you again about **The Souls Shot Portrait Project** on display at the McNichol Art Gallery at Neumann University in Aston from February 2nd - March 30th. The Project connects artists with the families of victims of gun violence to create intimate portraits of the lives lost. Unfortunately, my neighbor's son is one of those portraits. According to the Project's website (soulshotportraitproject.org), "we invite the community to recognize what has been lost and to take action to end gun violence." Please contact me at socialaction@ohev.net if you are interested in a docent-guided group visit.

And please reach out to me at socialaction@ohev.net if you have questions, ideas, or want to get involved in any of the Social Action projects.

With appreciation,

Lisa Karlin

**"It is not the length of life,
but the depth of life."**

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Social Action

Thanks to the students of Mispallelim for assembling gift bags of much needed basic supplies such as soap and socks for the residents of **The Family Management Center at Wesley House** in Chester. The contents of the 23 bags were much appreciated as well as the creative Happy Hanukkah designs on the outside of the bags!



Eunice Silver and Lisa Karlin gathering items

A Better Start for Babies is a new annual program we initiated this past fall. Gathering onesies, knit hats, caps, pacifiers, thermometers, wipes, diapers, and other newborn needs, a few Ohevites joined a few congregants of Beth Israel

on January 29th to assemble gift bags for new parents being cared for at ChesPenn. Together we raised funds and donations for over 70 bags



Finished assembling the bags going to Better Start for Babies! Eunice Silver and Lisa Karlin with congregants from Beth Israel.

valued at about \$75 each. Thank you for your generous participation. On February 10th, Tammy Finsterbush helped deliver the bags to ChesPenn, along with handmade baby quilts, where they will be used throughout the year. ChesPenn serves over 100 families of newborns each year and we look forward to reaching that mark as we continue to promote this program each year.

And a big thank you to Karen Simon and Naomi Wicentowski (and their kids) for taking over the shopping and serving dinner every other month at **The Life Center of Eastern Delaware County** in Upper Darby. Jacque and Bob Tillman and their family handled this for years and we are grateful for their dedication.



Packing up the gift bags going to residents in the Wesley House Family Management Center.

Our Martin Luther King request for volunteers and donations for **The Bernardine Center** didn't go as planned, but we will try again next year!

- Canned tuna (since tuna, even when packed in water, has often been processed in vegetable broth and/or hydrolyzed protein--however, if it is known that the tuna is packed exclusively in water, without any additional ingredients or additives, it may be purchased without a *Kosher le-Pesach* label)
- Vinegar and oils
- Wine or liquor
- Dried fruit or candy, soda
- Chocolate milk, ice cream, yogurt

D. Foods which require a Kosher-for-Passover *Hechsher* if purchased during Pesach:

- Milk and other dairy products
- Spices
- Coffee and tea
- Fish (canned, frozen)
- All foods listed in Category C.

What's the deal with *kitniyot*

In previous generations, Ashkenazi (Eastern European) authorities ruled that certain non-wheat foods, called *kitniyot*, were prohibited. These included: rice, corn, millet, and legumes (peanuts, beans, and most forms of peas). However, in recent years, the Conservative Movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has issued rulings permitting *kitniyot*. Some Ashkenazi authorities permit, while others forbid, the use of legumes in a form other than their natural state, for example, corn sweeteners, corn oil, soy oil. Sephardi authorities permit the use of all of the above. Stores selling "Kosher for Passover" foods may indicate on certain foods, "Contains *kitniyot*." Many Jews today, whether of Sephardi or Ashkenazi descent, have chosen to forego this entire issue, and eat all forms of non-processed *kitniyot* on Pesach.

I do permit the eating of *kitniyot*, as does Rabbi Gerber (in keeping with Conservative Movement rulings). Eating *kitniyot* can be a way to broaden eating options for children and those with more limited diets, and can also lessen the all-too-familiar consequences of eating a diet of mostly Matzah! That being said, many Jews have a strong family tradition of abstaining from *kitniyot*, which they may choose to follow.

If you do eat *kitniyot*, please make sure that any product you purchase was not made in a facility that processes wheat, and be mindful of other ingredients. If you have any questions about how to deal with the issue of *kitniyot*, please speak with Rabbi Miller.

DETERGENTS: If permitted during the year, powdered & liquid detergents do not require a *Pesach* label.

MEDICINE: Since *chametz* binders are used in many pills, the following guidelines should be followed: If the medicine is required for life sustaining therapy or emotional stability, it may be used on Pesach. If not for life sustaining therapy; some permit, some prohibit. Please follow the guidance of your doctors/mental health professionals, and reach out to Rabbi Miller with any questions.

Kashering your kitchen for Passover, and Bedikat Chametz.

Kashering simply means rendering something “kosher,” or “fit for use.” In this case, the goal of **kashering** a kitchen is to make it fit for use during the holiday. The process of **kashering** utensils depends on how the utensils are used.

- A. **EARTHENWARE** (china, pottery, etc.) may not be **kashered** for Passover, and should be stored for the week. However, fine translucent chinaware which has not been used for over a year may be used if scoured and cleaned in hot water.
- B. **METAL** (wholly made of metal) **UTENSILS USED IN FIRE** (spit, broiler) must first be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned and then made as hot as possible. Those used for cooking or eating (silverware, pots) must be thoroughly scrubbed, cleaned, and completely immersed in boiling water. Pots should not be used for at least 24 hours between cleaning and immersing in boiling water. Metal baking utensils cannot be kashered.
- C. **OVENS AND RANGES**: Every part that comes in contact with food must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned. Then, oven and range should be heated as hot as possible for a half hour. If there is a broil setting, use it. Self-cleaning ovens should be scrubbed and cleaned and then put through the self-cleaning cycle. Continuous cleaning ovens must be **kashered** in the same manner as regular ovens.
- D. **SMOOTHTOP ELECTRIC RANGES**: Scrub ALL food residue and traces of residue (as best you can), and then clean thoroughly according to manufacturer’s instructions.
- E. **MICROWAVE OVENS**: Should be cleaned, and then a cup of water should be placed inside. Then the oven should be turned on until the water disappears. A microwave oven that has a browning element cannot be **kashered** for Pesach and should be stored for the week.
- F. **GLASSWARE**: Give them a thorough scrubbing before Pesach, or put them through a dishwasher.
 - a. **Glass Cookware**: After a thorough cleansing, there should be water boiled in them which will overflow the rim.
 - b. **Glass Bakeware**, like metal bakeware, may not be **kashered** and should be stored for the week.
- G. **DISHWASHER**: After not using it for a period of 24 hours, run a full (empty) cycle with detergent.
- H. **ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES**: If the parts that come into contact with **chametz** are removable, they can be **kashered** in the appropriate way (if metal, follow the rules for metal utensils). If the parts are not removable, the appliance cannot be **kashered** and should be stored for the week.
- I. **TABLES, CLOSETS, AND COUNTERS**: If used with **chametz**, they should be thoroughly cleaned and covered, and then they may be used.
- J. **KITCHEN SINK**: A metal sink can be **kashered** by thoroughly cleaning and then pouring boiling water over it. A porcelain sink should be cleaned and a sink liner used.
- K. **CHAMETZ AND NON-PASSOVER UTENSILS**: Non-Passover dishes, pots, and **chametz** which has been temporarily sold for the week should be separated and stored in a marked area to avoid accidental use.

Note: it is absolutely fine if the lead-up to Passover is a natural time for you to do your annual “Spring Cleaning,” but it is important to remember that the priority of Passover prep is to get the kitchen prepared for Kosher-for-Passover use. Any other cleaning, except getting crumbs of actual chametz cleaned out of couch cushions, etc..., is completely optional. It may, in fact be wise not to add the stress of broader “Spring Cleaning” to Passover preparation.

Selling chametz before Passover, Bedikat/Bi’ur chametz, and the Fast of the Firstborn

In addition to not eating **chametz**, we are also commanded to refrain from owning **chametz** during the week of Passover. We arrange for the sale of all **chametz** to a non-Jewish person outside our family for the week of Pesach. The temporary transfer, **mechirat chametz**, is accomplished by appointing an agent, usually the rabbi, to handle the sale.

Mispallelim (cont. from page 12)

This month, Mispallelim will be focusing on the value of Tzedek, or justice. As we explore this value and the Purim story, let us shed light on the small human moments that snowballed into the Jewish victory in Shushan. Let’s talk about those choices that may seem insignificant but have lasting impact, and the thought processes that go into those moments. Was Mordechai nervous standing up when everyone else bowed, or turning in guards who could easily kill him? We may never know, but we know the results of his actions, and we can thank him for choosing to go through with it even if it was terrifying. Let’s highlight the human agency and talk through how we might have acted if we found ourselves in the shoes of the heroes. Let’s take ownership of the fact that while it was messy, the Jews made it out of Persia alive, without the

miraculous intervention of God on our behalf. Let’s lift up the choices of Mordechai and Esther in increasingly dire situations that drive our Purim story, the everyday decisions of people to try and help right a wrong (even if, or especially if, it’s a wrong we inevitably helped create in the first place). Let’s think of small ways we can be like Mordechai and Esther and even Vashti and stand up for Tzedek even when it’s hard. Let’s remember we don’t always have to wait for the miracle, and we can work to make it happen with our own two hands. And sometimes, we can celebrate the results of our work with a delicious cookie!

Allison Rovensky

**FUSE News—March 2023**

FUSE Presents in February was a very successful event. It was wonderful to hear Cory Long share all the great projects Making A Change Group (MAC) has undertaken. You may recall that Cory is one of the founding members of FUSE. Through the relationships developed through FUSE, MAC gained Board members and established some of its operational practices. What a wonderful example of FUSE connections truly making a difference.

Our next FUSE Presents speaker is Toni Truehart who will share information on Entrepreneur Works on March 13th! We hope you will join us then.

Planning is underway for Springtime events. We look forward to resuming the conversations upon which FUSE was built. Details on all FUSE happenings can be found in the weekly announcements.

FUSE is appreciative of the ongoing support from the Netzach Fund and the Ohevites who help FUSE continue in our mission. To learn more or to get more detailed information, contact Bonnie Breit at fuse@ohev.net.



Mispallelim

Purim is an incredibly fascinating holiday. On our Jewish history timeline, we find ourselves after the Torah, but before the Temples and the Judaism we know today, somewhere around the 5th century BCE. Being a post-Torah story, but still part of our traditional library of texts, the Megillat Esther tells the story of Jews saving themselves from the evil plot of Haman to kill all of the Jews in the kingdom of Persia. God is not really a part of this story, this victory is purely the result of our human ingenuity and intervention. So many pieces of the story are set in motion by a very simple, quickly mentioned action: Mordechai, our male protagonist, overhears two guards plotting to kill the king and turns them in. Without this moment, Mordechai wouldn't be written into the king's books as someone to reward, and there wouldn't have been a parade where Haman felt humiliated, which finalized Haman's hatred for Mordechai and his people.

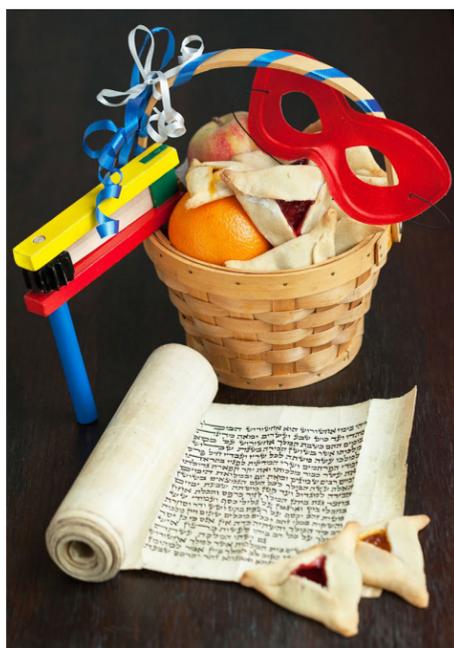
Putting yourself in Mordechai's shoes, how would you react to hearing two people planning a murder? Would you chalk it up to someone having a bad day and blowing off steam, or would you take it seriously and report it? What if you were wrong? Bigthan and Theresh, the two guards Mordechai overheard, were killed for their plans. Could you live with yourself being responsible for someone else's demise, through action or inaction?

Mordechai and Esther are two interesting heroes in our tradition. They are very human—they make mistakes; they are unsure, they do things that may come back to haunt them, and they do it all without the assurance of God's intervention and miraculous help. The only reason Mordechai and the Jews are even on Haman's radar of people to destroy is because Mordechai chose not to bow down to the king's power, stating Jews only bow to and worship

God. Did Mordechai realize this moment would lead to the potential destruction of all the Persian Jews? No. Did this other small moment have larger, unintended consequences for a group of people? Yes. It leads us to wonder— if we keep pulling the “what if” thread, what might have happened if Vashti never refused the king and wasn't banished from the kingdom, leading to the search for a new queen that gave Esther a position of power? Would Mordechai choose to bow down to avoid the Haman hate, or choose to keep his mouth shut about the king's plotted murder? Would Esther be willing to hide who she is if it isn't going to save her people?

Would Vashti let the king and his men have their way with her and not stand up for herself? (Side note: Vashti deserves a lot of respect and appreciation for her choices, and it says a lot about our reading of the story that in 2023 her spurning the sexual advances of a man in power over her is still not respected in the way it deserves. She is indeed a heroine in our literature despite her not being Jewish! But more on that another time)

So much of the outcome of our Purim story, our Jewish survival, is dependent on the actions and morality of the ever-fallible human being. So how do we teach this story to our children? Do we focus on the plot and our Jewish resilience? Do we focus on the evils of Haman, and the horrible choices one can make when they let hatred cloud their judgement? Or do we highlight the humanity, those small human moments and decisions where people live by their values despite potentially horrific consequences?



(Continued on page 13)

This is considered a valid and legal transfer of ownership. At the end of the holiday, the agent arranges for the reversion of ownership of the now-permitted *chametz*. Rabbi Miller is the designated agent for Ohev Shalom; please return the form at the end of this guide or via email, to sell your *chametz* through Ohev.

Bedikat/Bi'ur chametz

The night before Passover begins (so, if the first Seder is on a Monday, this would be Sunday night), there is a special ceremonial “double check” for *chametz*, called *Bedikat chametz*. There is a custom of hiding ten small pieces of bread in different parts of the house, so that they can be “discovered” and disposed of in a symbolic way. There is also a custom of conducting this final search for *chametz* by the light of a candle, using a feather and a wooden spoon as a broom and dustpan.

Blessing before the search

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצותיו, וצונו על בעור חמץ.

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech HaOlam, Asher Kidshanu BeMitzvotav VeTzivanu Al Bi'ur Chametz

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has made us holy through the commandments and commanded us regarding the elimination of chametz

Declaration after the search is completed:

כל חמירא וחמיצא דאכא ברשותי, דלא חמתה ודלא בערתה ודלא ידענא לה, לבטל ולהוי הפקר כעפרא דארעא.

All *chametz* in my possession which I have not seen or removed, or of which I am unaware, is hereby nullified and ownerless as the dust of the earth.

Declaration after the search is completed:

Any *chametz* that was discovered (symbolic or otherwise) should be set aside for the morning. If you have a fire-place, the *chametz* can be placed in the fireplace overnight. Some save their dried-out lulav from Sukkot to act as kindling for burning chametz the next morning – this can also be placed in the fireplace at this time.

The morning before the Seder, have your last delicious meal of *chametz*, and sweep up any leftovers or crumbs to go along with the *chametz* from the previous night. Once this is done, recite the above declaration one more time. Then, you can either throw away or burn these last crumbs of *chametz*.

If you choose to burn it, you can use a home fireplace, a safe outdoor location, or bring it to Ohev after morning minyan (we will be waiting with a fire going in a large metal bin!)

Helping Out in Your Community

As we put significant effort into the ritual commandments of the Passover holiday, it is important not to lose sight of the ethical commandments that oblige us to think of our neighbors and to avoid unnecessary waste.

1) Do you have *chametz* that you would like to get rid of?

Please bring it to the synagogue (kosher or non-kosher), and we will donate it to a local cause. Donations may be left outside either synagogue door, though PLEASE clearly label that it is for donations (and not a mysterious package about which we need to worry...).

2) Making a special donation on the holiday. Mazon, the Passover League, Philabundance, and many other organizations desperately need monetary donations. They buy fresh fruits and vegetables for clients, and stretch donations into the summer (when need is greatest, because school lunch programs are dormant, and donations to food pantries drop off).

Would you consider a small monthly donation to the charitable non-profit of your choice? \$10, \$15, or \$18/month can make a real difference over the year, and it's easy to authorize a monthly charge to a credit card or set up a monthly bank transfer. Below are links to support several wonderful organizations:

The Bernardine Center in Chester: <http://bernardinecenter.org/bc/Donations/>

Chester Eastside Ministries: <https://chestereastside.org/donate/>

Media Food Bank: <https://www.facebook.com/Media.Food.Bank/>

City Team Chester: <https://cityteam.org/chester/>

Mazon: <http://mazon.org/get-involved/sustainer-society/>



THE SELLING AND BURNING OF CHAMETZ

Congregation Ohev Shalom, Passover 5783

This formal sale, called *mechirat chametz*, is legally binding, according to Jewish religious law. All *chametz* in one's possession should be collected and placed in a spare room or closet (preferably locked). In addition, all *chametz* dishes and utensils should be stored away for the eight days of Pesach.

It is customary to present a donation when one participates in this ceremony of selling the *chametz*. These funds are used to help the less-fortunate during this season. Feel free to designate a charity for your donation; *all undesignated funds that are collected will be distributed to the charities listed on the previous page*. By signing this form, Rabbi Miller will act as your agent in the legal transfer of *chametz*. And, as always, the esteemed purchaser of all our *chametz* is Mr. Steven Smith, Ohev Shalom Maintenance Supervisor. Please return this completed form to the synagogue, and enclose a check of a sum of your choice (many donate \$18, or multiples of \$18), made out to one of the organizations listed above (or one you prefer).

The selling of chametz will continue until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4th, 2023.

Chametz Burning: On the morning of Wednesday, April 5th, we are commanded to burn the *chametz*. We will still set up a "*chametz* burning station" in the Ohev Shalom parking lot. If you would like to join us for the official ceremony, we will be burning *chametz* around 9:30 a.m. The (contained & monitored) fire will remain lit from 9:15-10:30 a.m., so that you may burn *chametz* on your own, at your convenience.

AUTHORIZATION FOR SALE OF CHAMETZ:

I, (please PRINT) _____, hereby authorize Rabbi Kelilah Miller to dispose of all *chametz* owned by me or anyone in my household. This I do in accordance with the requirements and provisions of Jewish law.

Sign Name: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____