



The Israelight

*Congregation Beth Israel of Media
A Reconstructionist Jewish Community*

Passover Second Night Community Seder
Saturday, April 16, 2022 at 6:00

in person in the sanctuary*
with

Rabbi Nathan & Rabbinic Intern Aya Baron



A Seder meal will be served. \$10/adult \$7/child
If you are available to help with shopping, cooking, serving,
setting up, or cleaning up, please contact Andy Coleman,
(ahndroo@aol.com)

PLEASE REGISTER BY APRIL 8. (It will really help us plan)

<https://www.bethisraelmedia.org/event/passover-seder-in-sanctuary-with-rabbi-nathan-and-aya-baron.html>

*

We are planning to be in person, but this virus has taught us to be humble

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This April, we enter the Hebrew month of Nisan. As we do so, we emerge from the Hebrew calendar's leap month which is two back-to-back months of Adar. The Hebrew calendar adds this month in to maintain a calendar that is connected both to the moon's cycle and the sun's. Our months follow the moon's waning and waxing, and our annual cycle aligns with the seasons. While for hundreds of years, leap months have been calculated systematically, our texts tell us that once upon a time, this extra month was added during years when the barley crop (harvested in Nisan) did not look quite ready, an early indication that spring was not yet on the immediate horizon.

What are the origins of this double-synchronized calendar? First, of course, we look to the Torah. In Exodus we are instructed to count months with the moon, and in Deuteronomy we learn that Passover shall be *chag ha-aviv*- a festival of spring. For centuries, Jews have understood these two texts to teach us to mark time as indicated above - with both the sun and the moon.

So - you might be wondering - what use is this context for us this year, and in our community?

I will answer assuming all who read are asking like the wise child of the Passover seder - with wide-eyed curiosity. This year, I suggest, the gift of just a little bit of extra time before *chag ha-aviv* (Passover) arrives - a few more weeks to prepare for this central holiday - has done us all good. Recently, the ailments of our world have been painfully visible - from the Omicron surge to witnessing the war in Ukraine and a global refugee crises. Personally, it has been hard for me to imagine marking collective liberation from Egypt when so many themes of Exodus' cautionary tale are present in today's world.

While I feel the realities of todays' world acutely, this certainly is not the only year the ills of the world have mirrored back the hardships of our biblical stories to us. Thus, perhaps not just this year but all years, we need Passover to fall in the springtime.

As I gaze at the cherry blossoms, the redbuds, the dogwoods- I am taking them in this year as a reminder that, even with all that is broken in our world, there are some cycles that are whole and intact. There are beautiful blossoms emerging- in the natural world around us, in

our individual and communal lives. Uplifting the beauty paves the way to be present with the full spectrum with more grace resilience- a gift the Hebrew calendar gives us by synchronizing Passover with springtime year after year, again and again and again.

This month will bring in two BI events that will help us be present this full spectrum: on April 9, we will gather for our next Torah Treks, focusing on the Torah of Liberation. We will continue our antiracist work, this time diving into Jewish texts to see how they might inform our collective liberatory work. Just one week later, on April 16, all are invited to BI's first in-person seder since before the pandemic. We will weave story, song and sustenance through a beautiful evening. While we recount our ancient stories and reflect on today's world, we will certainly revel in the immense miracle of making it across the red sea once again to a year in which we can at long last celebrate together in the sanctuary. Wishing all a happy Nisan. May we all be blessed with many opportunities to welcome in springtime,



<https://www.thefoodartist.com/blog/2019/4/16/modern-seder-plate-of-tolerance>

Rabbis' Note



Rabbi Linda Potemken
Rabbi Nathan Martin

It's Spring and Pesach is around the corner. We are delighted to offer two opportunities for study that will enrich your experience and understanding of this festival of redemption as well as an in person 2nd night seder at BI. We hope that you'll notice (on page 10) the invitation to participate in the first in person FUSE gathering in over two years. FUSE is a wonderful way to build relationships with our neighbors in Chester. Finally, BI continues to pray for peace in Ukraine and around the world at our Shabbat and weekday services. Tzedakah, via one of the many helping organizations, is encouraged as we take in the heartbreaking news. Finally, we are proud to offer our rabbinic intern, Aya Baron, the opportunity to write the Rabbi's Message this month.

**FOR COUPLES INTERESTED IN
EXPLORING JEWISH TOOLS & INSIGHTS
FROM COUPLES THERAPY**
**TO BRING OUT THE BEST IN
YOURSELF AND
YOUR RELATIONSHIP:**
MUSSAR FOR MARRIAGE
 with Rabbi Linda
 & Dr. Frani Pollack (marriage and family therapist)
 come with your spouse/partner
May 5 May 19 June 2 4:30-6
 For more information or to register
 contact Rabbi Linda
ravltp@bethisraelmedia.org



Vigil for Ukraine



Rabbi Nathan with Rev. Lydia Munoz from Swarthmore United Methodist, singing for peace.

How to Reach our Rabbis

By phone: (610) 566-4645, choose option 1 if Diane does not answer. A voice message left for either Rabbi will reach them quickly.

By e-mail: Rabbi Linda: ravltp@bethisraelmedia.org

Rabbi Nathan: rabbinathan@bethisraelmedia.org

Not sure who's 'on' this weekend? Check the calendar, easily available at bethisraelmedia.org and on the penultimate page of this Israelight. Also, each rabbi's e-mail account responds with a message indicating which rabbi is 'on.'

In cases of a real emergency...

Senior Rabbi Linda's and Associate Rabbi Nathan's home phone numbers can be found in the Member's Area of our website under How to Reach Our Rabbis and in our Directory.

The Rabbinic Liaison Committee exists in most Reconstructionist communities to ensure the maintenance of a good working relationship between the rabbis and the congregation. While congregants are always welcome and encouraged to discuss questions or concerns directly with Rabbi Linda or Rabbi Nathan, they may at times feel more comfortable talking to the Rabbinic Liaison committee. Issues raised by congregants are discussed confidentially and, when appropriate, are shared with a Rabbi in a constructive manner. To discuss a question or concern with a lay member of the committee please feel free to contact: Julian Yates (jyates@udel.edu) Deb Erie (debjoerie@gmail.com), Emily Levine (emilysquireslevine.com), or Linda Cohen (lhc@comcast.net).

EMMA LEFKOWITZ



Dear Beth Israel Community,

When we say Beth Israel is a vibrant community, we aren't kidding! Here are some highlights of what's going on these days:

- It's Pesach time and, as I write, the Religious Practices Committee, the Rabbis and the Covid Advisory Committee are working together to plan a festive, meaningful and safe seder in the BI sanctuary.
- A "greening" team is hard at work planning for the launch of a Sustainability Garden at BI, along with some exciting programming to coincide with the Ellie Festival in May.
- The Executive Committee and several Past Presidents are working on our office staffing needs, which are evolving.
- The newly formed Communications team is taking on the management of the BI website and improving the flow of information in and out of our community.
- Many groups are diving into anti-racism work at BI, touching on education, communication and social justice activism.
- Volunteers and donors are doing incredible work with the Social Action Committee to feed the needy.
- The Design Committee and several Past Presidents are taking on the hard work of making a proposal to the Board for a new sign to replace the one we have at roadside.
- The Security Committee has just recently applied for several new grants for further security improvements.
- The Executive Committee and several Past Presidents have launched the Capital Campaign, which is going great so far! Please go to <https://www.bethisraelmedia.org/form/capcampform2022> to join the campaign today!
- The Board is currently fine-tuning the budget for the next fiscal year.
- The Strategic Planning Committee is about to start a Midterm Review of the plan, which is current for 2019-2024.
- The Rummage Sale team is getting ready to plan this year's big event.
- BI is renting space again to The Creative Living Room for this summer's camp and it's filling up fast.

Pretty exciting stuff, and I want to thank all of the amazing volunteers and staff who make this all possible. There is much more to add, this is just a *start* to the highlights we could do! Please write to me at EmmaVWL@yahoo.com with comments or questions.

FINANCIAL HARSHIP? For those of you who may need some assistance for your small business or other financial issues that have arisen from the pandemic, consider consulting the following resources: The Hebrew Free Loan Society of Philadelphia: <https://hflphilly.org/> Grants, loans, other resources: jewishtogether.org run by the Jewish Federations of North America.

As usual, check your email for more information and for zoom links.

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Immediate Past President: Lynn Cashell

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MEMBERS AT LARGE: Kim Dumoff, Steve Friedman, Larrye Loss

Jessie Reagan Mann, Randi Raskin Nash

TORAH TREKS : The Torah of What Concerns us NOW

Wednesdays 7:30 - 9:00 on Zoom or Saturdays 11:00 - 12:30 location TBA

**Saturday April 9 Rabbi Linda Potemken and Rabbinic Intern Aya Baron, with Rich Remenick & Marion Hamermesh
Redemption at Pesach and All Year Long**

Traditionally Jews sing and pray about redemption twice daily and, every year at Pesach, we celebrate an entire festival of redemption. At this Torah Trek on the Shabbat before Pesach, we will examine the ways in which the story of redemption shapes and defines Judaism and serves as a source of inspiration for resilience and tikkun olam.

JOURNEYING THROUGH JUDAISM with Aya Baron April 6 7:30 Deepening Your Seder**Mussar** with Rabbi Linda Tuesday, April 19 at noon

See page 3 for information about Mussar for Marriage with R. Linda and Dr. Frani Pollack

SAVE THE DATE
for the annual Raz Lecture
Sunday, May 1 10:00 a.m. What About Israel?

Speaker 1: Debra Shushan is the director of government affairs at J Street where she manages the advocacy operations and activities of the Government Affairs team. As an analyst of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and US foreign policy, Dr. Shushan honed her expertise as director of policy and government relations at Americans for Peace Now. (for more information go to the JStreet website)

Speaker 2: We are finding a second speaker who has a different point of view. (check email for details etc)

The Raz Lecture was established to honor the memory of Beth Israel member Jonathan A. Raz, who passed away in February of 2000. Jonathan had joined BI with his wife Jennifer Lenway and their 2 daughters shortly after their move to Swarthmore. Dr. Raz was a devoted husband and father and was renowned in the field of bio-statistics. He was also an award-winning poet, science fiction writer, amateur astronomer, gourmet cook and art collector. Jonathan Raz was to begin studying for adult Bar Mitzvah the week he died. We honor his memory through ongoing learning and celebration.

Religious School

We had lively Purim celebrations throughout our Hebrew School this year. Our Gan/Alef class made decoupage groggers (pictured below on the left) and practiced stomping out Haman's name. They also ate a topsy-turvy snack for this topsy-turvy holiday—dirt cake! Mud, sand, compost, seeds, and worms tasted awfully like fabulous, loaded chocolate pudding. They then assembled mishloach manot bags to give to our friends and families! The rest of our Hebrew School celebrated by making their own Hamantaschen and participating in a raucous Purim Carnival (pictured below on the right) with games and prizes galore! They are showed off their costumes with a Purim-inspired runway walk.



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Purim Shpiel 5782

April 2022
Adar II /Nissan 5782

5782 PURIM 2022
The Best of Season 18

THE GREAT SHUSHAN BAKING SHOW



The Book of Esther: The Prequel

Megillah Reading & Purim Shpiel
Photos by lynn Cashell



The Not Ready for Purim Time Players (or The Great Shushan Acting Troupe) - in no particular order:

Karen Vesely, Rabbi Linda Potemken, Randy Tiffany, Rabbi Nathan Martin, Larry Hamermesh, Marion Hamermesh, Lynn Cashell, Laura Lee Blechner, Chris Pragman, Sharon Kleban, Joyce Romoff, Daniela Eskenazi, Mark Rosenberg, Allan Feldman, Leora Tiffany, Aya Baron, Lauri Mansky



Mourner	Remembering	Relationship	Yahrzeit 2022	Yahrzeit 5782
Carol Briselli	Iso Briselli	Father-in-law	April 01	29 Adar II
David Markman	Martin Markman*	Father	April 02	1 Nisan
Laura Lee Blechner	Leslie Ferentz	Grandfather	April 03	2 Nisan
Ann Green	Siegfried Buchberg*	Father	April 03	2 Nisan
Deenie Block	Eughenia Erlich	Mother	April 04	3 Nisan
Lauri Mansky	Lois Goodman*	Mother	April 07	6 Nisan
Michael Lefkowitz	Sheldon Lefkowitz	Father	April 07	6 Nisan
Richard Block	Helyn Block	Mother	April 08	7 Nisan
David Wasser	Morris Wasser	Father	April 11	10 Nisan
Joshua Waterston	Buzz Waterston*	Father	April 12	11 Nisan
Wendy Waterston	Buzz Waterston*	Husband	April 12	11 Nisan
Me'ira Pitkappaasi	Eleanor Adelman	Grandmother	April 14	13 Nisan
Stuart Isaacs	Howard Isaacs*	Father	April 14	13 Nisan
Arnie Schwartz	Charles Silverstein	Uncle	April 14	13 Nisan
Peter Bernstein	Shirley Glasserman*	Aunt	April 14	13 Nisan
Helene Gumerman	Carl Gumerman	Husband	April 15	14 Nisan
Stuart Pittel	Lee Pittel*	Mother	April 17	16 Nisan
Natalia Zhukovskaya	Zinaida Zhukovskaya	Grandmother	April 17	16 Nisan
Stephen Platt	Felice Ruth Platt	Mother	April 17	16 Nisan
Elaine Wasekanes	Ethel Kesselman	Mother	April 21	20 Nisan
Me'ira Pitkappaasi	Jonah Elliott-Adelman	Son	April 24	23 Nisan
David Wasser	Amy Keller	Sister	April 24	23 Nisan
David Markman	Shirley Markman*	Mother	April 25	24 Nisan
The congregation	Jeffrey Deitch*	Friend	April 27	26 Nisan
Deborah Erie	Barbara Drill	Sister	April 28	27 Nisan

*after a name indicates that there is a plaque.



Yahrzeit begins at sundown the evening before the date shown.

*Thank you for generosity in honor of Rabbi Linda and to the Capital Campaign.
Those donations will be acknowledged in the May/June issue.*

Rabbis' Discretionary Fund

Shelley Rappaport in honor of Rabbi Linda Potemken's twenty fifth anniversary as the caring, creative, and committed spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Israel of Media.

Hebrew School

Rabbi Nathan Martin in honor of Lisa Blaskey DeCamp

Sending you blessings for healing:

Dottie Jenkins, Ron Romoff, Andrew Kelly, Alan Fink, Deanie Heller, Jane Laffend, Lynn Kelly, Helena Landis, Geoff Horowitz

Please be sure to let the Rabbis know when you or someone in the congregation is in need of a blessing for healing.

Your generous support not only enables Beth Israel to provide a robust variety of programs that foster the spiritual needs of our community, your support also enhances our ability to bring about tikkun olam through our social action initiatives. Your generosity is appreciated now more than ever. Please consider honoring a friend or a loved one through a contribution to any of our designated funds.

Social Action Committee**Gefilte Flicks Movie Night**

The Social Action Committee held its "Gefilte Flicks" movie discussion of "The Farewell" on March 5th. Louis Friedler led the discussion with 20 synagogue members and family. People were encouraged to watch the film ahead of time and discuss on ZOOM together. It was a very nice evening of talk and film appreciation.

BI Food Drive for Purim

The Social Action Committee hosted a very successful food donation drive, benefiting the Media Food Bank, in concert with the distribution of Shalach Manot bags and the Purim service and shpiel. Ala Hamilton Day chaired this effort.

Chester Eastside Tutoring Report

Louis Friedler, Beth Israel coordinator for CEI tutoring, reports there are 11 active coaches and all are working well with their assigned students.

Phone Calls to Representatives for Afghan Refugees

On February 18, John Greenstine organized a team of 8 BI members in making phone calls to our local Federal representatives, urging them to take action on special immigration legislation to grant Afghan refugees expedited attention to their appeals for status to remain in the US. The calls went well, and we got formal, supportive notes back from all our reps. (*Editor's note:* On March 16 Afghani refugees were granted TPS (Temporary Protected Status - a big leap forward for them. Read more about this here: <https://www.hias.org/news/press-releases/hias-statement-designation-afghanistan-temporary-protected-status> Thank you to those who made phone calls.)

Please remember to donate personal care items and toiletries for the homeless shelters and the Community Action Agency. The collection box is on the main floor, under the coat rack.

Thank you – Social Action Committee



FUSE COURAGEOUS CONVERSATION

REGISTRATION

IS NOW OPEN

**REMEMBERING FUSE - A WALKING TOUR OF CHESTER, PAST,
PRESENT**

WHEN: Sunday, April 24th, 2022 - 2PM-5PM

WHERE: We are meeting at the MACG administrative office, Anson building, 419 Edgmont Ave, Chester, PA 19013 (corner of 5th and Edgmont)

Come reconnect with our diverse FUSE community. Together we will learn about the significant historical aspects of the city of Chester, as well as visit and support some of the current thriving businesses along Chester's main street.

Sponsored by FUSE and its member organizations, including:

- Chester Eastside Ministries
- Chester Peace Initiative
- Congregation Beth Israel of Media
- Congregation Ohev Shalom
- MAC Group
- Swarthmore Presbyterian Church
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County
- Wallingford Presbyterian Church

For more information or questions, please email us: info@fusedelco.com

REGISTER HERE!

eventbrite.com/e/fuse-courageous-conversation-tickets-300206685277



**Joan Nathan's Mock Chopped Liver
(Especially for Vegetarians)**

Recipe taken from *JEWISH COOKING IN AMERICA*
(Alfred A. Knopf, 1998).

Ingredients

1/2 lb mushrooms, chopped
1 small onion, chopped
3 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 cup chopped walnuts
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
1 tablespoon water

1. Sauté the mushrooms and onion in the vegetable oil over a medium heat until the onion is clear.
2. Turn into a blender or food processor, add the walnuts, salt and pepper, and the water. Process until blended but not too smooth.

Serve as an appetizer spread with matzah.

Yield: about 1 cup

GROCERY CARDS ARE IN STOCK AT BETH ISRAEL — YES!
I shop at Acme or Giant and I'm happy to purchase gift cards through BI! (for every card purchased, BI receives \$5 - it adds up and makes a difference!) Let Diane know if you'd like to purchase some. Phone 610-566-4645 or send her an email: diane_longenecker@bethisraelmedia.org

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27 Adar II 24 9:00am Reconstructing Judaism Convention ■ 9:30am No Hebrew School 10:00am Covid Advisory Committee Meeting	28 Adar II 25 ■ 8:30am Morning Spiritual Practice ■ 5:45pm Online Hebrew School with Me'ira 7:30pm Space Rented	29 Adar II 26	30 Adar II 27 7:30pm Social Action Committee meeting (via Zoom)	31 Adar II 28 ■ 8:30am Morning Spiritual Practice 2:00pm Israel Lecture Presentation ■ 5:45pm Online Hebrew School with Shira 6:45pm Space Rented	1 Adar II 29 7:08pm Candle Lighting ■ 7:30pm Shabbat Services with Rabbi Linda (on zoom)	2 Nisan 1 Rosh Chodesh Nisan Parshat Hachodesh Tazria ■ 9:45am Shabbat Services with Rabbi Linda and Bat Mitzvah of Nora Weiner (in sanctuary and on zoom) 8:17pm Havdalah
3 Nisan 2 ■ 9:30am Hebrew School - Model Seder, Gan-Alef #7	4 Nisan 3 ■ 5:45pm Online Hebrew School with Me'ira 7:30pm Space Rented	5 Nisan 4	6 Nisan 5 7:30pm Journeying through Judaism - Pesach: Deepening Your Seder	7 Nisan 6 2:00pm VFI Schmooze Thursday ■ 5:45pm Online Hebrew School with Shira 6:45pm Space Rented	8 Nisan 7 7:15pm Candle Lighting ■ 7:30pm Shabbat Services with Aya Baron (on zoom)	9 Nisan 8 Shabbat HaGadol Metzora ■ 9:45am Shabbat Services with Rabbi Linda (in sanctuary) 11:00am Torah Treks with Rabbi Linda (in sanctuary and on zoom) 1:00pm Bar Mitzvah rehearsal 8:24pm Havdalah
10 Nisan 9 ■ 9:30am No Hebrew School - School Break	11 Nisan 10 ■ 5:45pm No Hebrew School - School Break 7:30pm Space Rented	12 Nisan 11	13 Nisan 12 ■ 5:45pm No Hebrew School - School Break	14 Nisan 13 ■ 8:30am Morning Spiritual Practice with Aya Baron 2:00pm VFI Schmooze Thursday	15 Nisan 14 Erev Pesach Taanit Bechorot 7:22pm Candle Lighting ■ 7:30pm No Shabbat Services	16 Nisan 15 Pesach ■ 9:45am No Shabbat Services ■ 6:00pm Passover Seder in sanctuary with Rabbi Nathan and Aya Baron 8:23pm Candle Lighting
17 Nisan 16 Pesach 1st Day Omer ■ 9:30am No Hebrew School - School Break 8:32pm Havdalah	18 Nisan 17 Chol Hamoed Pesach 2nd Day Omer ■ 5:30pm No Hebrew School 7:30pm Space Rented	19 Nisan 18 Chol Hamoed Pesach 3rd Day Omer 12:00 pm Mussar with Rabbi Linda	20 Nisan 19 Chol Hamoed Pesach 4th Day Omer ■ 5:30pm No Hebrew School	21 Nisan 20 Chol Hamoed Pesach 5th Day Omer 2:00pm VFI Schmooze Thursday 6:45pm Space Rented 7:28pm Candle Lighting	22 Nisan 21 Pesach 6th Day Omer 7:29pm Candle Lighting ■ 7:30pm Shabbat Services with Rabbi Nathan (on zoom)	23 Nisan 22 Pesach Yizkor 7th Day Omer Achrei Mot ■ 9:45am Shabbat Services with Rabbi Nathan and Bar Mitzvah of Max Grin (in sanctuary) 8:38pm Havdalah
24 Nisan 23 8th Day Omer ■ 9:30am Hebrew School 10:00am Board of Directors Meeting (on Zoom)	25 Nisan 24 9th Day Omer ■ 5:45pm Online Hebrew School with Me'ira 7:30pm Space Rented	26 Nisan 25 10th Day Omer	27 Nisan 26 11th Day Omer 7:30pm Social Action Committee meeting (via Zoom)	28 Nisan 27 Yom HaShoah 12th Day Omer 2:00pm VFI Schmooze Thursday ■ 5:45pm Online Hebrew School with Shira 6:45pm Space Rented	29 Nisan 28 13th Day Omer 10:00am RPC Meeting (on zoom) ■ 7:30pm Shabbat Services with Rabbi Linda (on zoom) 7:36pm Candle Lighting	30 Nisan 29 Shabbat Mevarchim 14th Day Omer Kedoshim ■ 9:45am Shabbat Services led by Me'ira Pitkappaasi (on zoom) 8:45pm Havdalah



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The Israelight is published on the first of each secular month. All submissions must be received by the editor by the 15th of the preceding month to guarantee inclusion. Articles may be submitted by mail to the synagogue office or by email to:

Israelight@bethisraelmedia.org

Next Issue: May/June Deadline: April 15

Zissen Pesach
*Wishing you and yours
 a sweet Passover*



Jewish Reconstructionist Movement
 In Association with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

FUSE
Fellowship of Urban Suburban Engagement



MAZON

A Jewish Response
 To Hunger